

D

769.34

.174th

A4

A 683754

ASSUMUS ET VOLUMUS

WE DID



From The Combat Records Of
THE 174th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
WORLD WAR II





20

174th

174th

A-1

Compiled by
Major Harry P. Snyder
174th Field Artillery Battalion
and published
in collaboration with
The Ohio War History Commission

Copyright Privileges Pending,
All Rights Reserved.

CREDITS

expressed to the many men who
nunts of their personal ex-
and other material that
of memories possible.

H. P. S.

DEDICATED TO
THOSE MEN BOTH LIVING AND DEAD
WHO FOUGHT SO VALIANTLY
TO PROVE OUR MOTTO

"WE CAN AND WE WILL"

AND BY SO DOING, PERMITTING
THOSE OF US WHO REMAIN
TO PROUDLY SAY;

"WE DID"

THE FIGHTING 174th

The road was muddy, and battered by shells,
Bomb craters thick, like shallow wells,
O'er war torn fields, O'er rugged terrain,
The 174th goes forward again.

The tanks go rolling, up hill and down,
All motors whining; yet a beautiful sound.
For we were going to help the Joe,
The boy on foot, battling the foe.

A position was picked, the gun was laid,
The gunner said, "Set!" we dropped the spade,
Each man was tense, but hastily worked,
And no one loafed around or shirked.

"Ready for action," the gun chief cried,
You could tell by his voice, he was swelled with pride.
And each man shared that feeling too,
For this was a task, we all liked to do.

The target was seen on the opposite hill,
The fog was lifting, the wind was still.
The distance was sensed, then firing began,
"Look out Jerries!" we're at it again.

Round number one was on the way,
"Nice going men," the chief would say.
Then we would ram the second round home,
To be thrown at the target of concrete and stone.

"Fire!" The command was repeated once more,
And smoke and fire belched from the bore.
Round number two, with fuze delay,
Screaming and whining, went on its way.

This mission was repeated three score and six,
Leaving the target in a hell've a fix.
Then the voice of the observer from the radio,
Gave the command to cease firing, and C. S. M. O.

We loaded the equipment and turned the gun,
Back to the rear, our job was done,
The infantry pushed forward to complete the gain,
For the 174th had done it again.

Written by
T/4 Kenneth D. Jones

FOREWORD

"WE DID" is the story of the 174th Field Artillery Battalion in World War II from 9 February, 1944 to the time of reorganization at Linz, Austria, 1 July, 1945. The narrative originated in the personal notes of a single individual; but it soon came to be enriched by the contributions, verbal and written, of other members of the Battalion, and documented by official reports, orders, records, and memoranda.

In preparing this book for publication, an effort was made to carry along the main thread of action and circumstance; only a few incidents and events are described in detail, and these, it was felt, were of special interest to the whole Battalion. Doubtless, many incidents and experiences are inadvertently omitted which would have made the book a more lively and complete record of the action of the Battalion. Likewise there are certain to be some errors and omissions with respect to dates and names. All data submitted for publication were carefully recorded, but, in the attempt to emphasize the activities of the Battalion as a whole, the exploits and experiences of individuals and segments of the organization sometimes had to be omitted. The book contains, in other words, those parts of our story that is believed to be of the greatest interest to the greatest number of us.

HARRY P. SNYDER
Major F.A.



CAMPS OF GREEN

By Walt Whitman

Not alone those camps of white, O soldiers,
When, as order'd forward, after a long march,
Footsore and weary, soon as the light lessen'd, we halted for the night;
Some of us so fatigued, carrying the gun and knapsack, dropping asleep
in our tracks;

Others pitching the little tents, and the fires lit up began to sparkle;
Outposts of pickets posted, surrounding, alert through the dark,
And a word provided for countersign, careful for safety;
Till to the call of the drummers at daybreak loudly beating the drums,
We rose up refresh'd, the night and sleep pass'd over, and resumed our journey,
Or proceeded to battle.

Lo! the camps of the tents of green,
Which the days of peace keep filling, and the days of war keep filling,
With a mystic army, (is it too order'd forward? is it too only halting awhile,
Till night and sleep pass over?)

Now in those camps of green—in their tents dotting the world;
In the parents, children, husbands, wives, in them—in the old and young,
Sleeping under the sunlight, sleeping under the moonlight, content and silent
there at last,

Behold the mighty bivouac-field, and waiting-camp of all,
Of corps and generals all, and the President over the corps and generals all,
And of each of us, O soldiers, and of each and all in the ranks we fought,
(There without hatred we shall all meet.)

For presently, O soldiers, we too camp in our place in the bivouac-camps
of green;

But we need not provide for outposts, nor word for the countersign,
Nor drummer to beat the morning drum.



MARSHALL A. LANGLEY



JAMES L. HERFURTH



CLARENCE JACKSON



JOHN H. FRENCH



JAMES W. AKINS



WILSON B. BRADBURY



RUSSELL F. MEESE



ROBERT O. COLLUM

HONOR ROLL

T/5 EDWARD C. JONES
killed in automobile accident near Gilwern, Wales,
22 April, 1944

T/4 WILSON B. BRADBURY
killed in action near Avranches, France,
1 August, 1944

T/5 JAMES L. HERFURTH
killed in action near Berbourg, Luxembourg,
16 December, 1944

CPL. JOHN H. FRENCH
killed in action near Manderfeld, Belgium,
4 March, 1945

PFC. JAMES W. AKINS
killed in action near Manderfeld, Belgium,
4 March, 1945

PFC. ROBERT O. COLLUM
killed in action near Manderfeld, Belgium,
4 March, 1945

PFC. CLARENCE JACKSON
killed in action near Manderfeld, Belgium,
4 March, 1945

LT. COL. MARSHALL A. LANGLEY
killed in action near St. Goar, Germany,
26 March, 1945

CPL. RUSSELL F. MEESE
died of wounds received in action near St. Goar, Germany
29 March, 1945

PVT. ROBERT L. JONES
killed in action near Dippach, Germany,
8 April, 1945

EDWARD C. JONES

*Picture
Not
Available*

ROBERT L. JONES

*Picture
Not
Available*

**174th
FIELD
ARTILLERY
BATTALION**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	11
The First Leg	13
Merrie Olde England	17
Normandy	23
Brittany	31
The Fall of Brest	49
From Rennes to the Western Front	67
Luxembourg	71
The Bulge	77
The Reduction of the Bulge	91
The Siegfried Line	97
Crossing of the Prum, the Kyll, and the Rhine.....	105
The German Heartland	111
Victory over Germany	119
Displaced Persons Duty and Redeployment.....	125
Appendix	129
Awards	130
Embarkation Roster	134
Home Addresses	140

INTRODUCTION

The 174th Field Artillery Battalion

Historically, the 174th Field Artillery Battalion was organized in 1921 as the 2d Battalion, 135th Field Artillery Regiment, Ohio National Guard. The 135th Field Artillery Regiment was an outgrowth of the 134th Field Artillery Regiment (and is not a reconstitution of the 134th Field Artillery Regiment), but shared the World War and previous history of the 134th Field Artillery, Ohio National Guard. The 134th Field Artillery, Ohio National Guard, had its origin in the Gun Section, Cleveland Grays, organized July 16, 1839. In 1845, it was redesignated the Cleveland Light Artillery, and, in 1860, was expanded into a regiment and designated the 1st Regiment of Light Artillery, Ohio Volunteer Militia. April 21, 1861, the regiment was mustered into Federal service for ninety (90) days as the 1st Regiment, Light Artillery, Ohio Volunteers, and was mustered out on July 27, 1861; reorganized and again mustered into Federal Service from August 6, 1861, to June 4, 1862, and was mustered out from June 15, to July 30, 1865. The 1st Regiment, Light Artillery, Ohio Volunteers, did not serve intact during the Civil War; its batteries were scattered throughout the different theatres of operation. Reorganized in 1872 as the Cleveland Light Artillery, Ohio Independent Militia, and, in 1886, expanded to eight batteries and designated the 1st Regiment, Light Artillery, Ohio National Guard. It continued in State Service until May 3, 1898, when it was reduced to a battalion (1st Battalion, Ohio Volunteers, Light Artillery) by the transfer of certain units to the Cavalry and Infantry. Mustered into Federal service for Spanish-American

War duty on May 11, 1898, at Columbus, Ohio, but did not serve outside the continental limits of the United States, and was mustered out from October 21, to October 23, 1898, reverting to its former State status as the 1st Regiment, Light Artillery, Ohio National Guard, the batteries which had been transferred being returned to the regiment. On April 14, 1899, the regiment was disbanded, but seven of its batteries continued to serve as "unattached batteries of light artillery". However, by September 23, 1911, only two batteries (A and D) of light artillery existed in Ohio, the others having been transferred to the Infantry or disbanded. Battery C was organized at Briggsdale, Ohio, and, on September 23, 1911, the three batteries (A, B and C) were designated the Battalion of Field Artillery, Ohio National Guard. On this same date, Battery D (Toledo) was redesignated Battery B. This battalion was mustered into Federal service for Mexican Border duty, July 11, 1916, at Columbus, Ohio, as the 1st Battalion, Field Artillery, Ohio National Guard. It served on the Mexican border from September 7, 1916, to March 12, 1917. On May 4, 1917, the battalion was expanded to a regiment and designated the 1st Field Artillery, Ohio National Guard; September 15, 1917, was redesignated 134th Field Artillery, and assigned to the 62d Field Artillery Brigade, 37th Division. It served overseas during the World War; participated in combat; and was demobilized at Camp Sherman, Ohio, April 9, 1919. In August, 1919, the 1st Field Artillery, Ohio National Guard, was reorganized, and, in 1920, redesignated the 134th Field Artillery. The

135th Field Artillery was inducted into Federal service October 15, 1940, and, by AG 320.2 (1-12-42) MR-M-D, dated January 16, 1942, the 2d Battalion, 135th Field Artillery Regiment, was redesignated as the 1st Battalion, 174th Field Artillery Regiment. The 1st Battalion, 174th Field Artillery Regiment, was by AG 320.2 (2-5-43) OB-I-GN-M, dated February 8, 1943, redesignated as the 174th Field Artillery Battalion.

During the course of its history of almost a century, this organization served its state and nation under many different official designations and in many varied combinations of forces. The most effective summary

of its activities may, perhaps, best be presented by the following list of battle honors to which the 174th Field Artillery Battalion is entitled:

Civil War

Shiloh	Gettysburg
Manassas	Chickamauga
Murfreesborough	Franklin
Chancellorsville	Georgia, 1864
Nashville	Kentucky, 1862
	Tennessee, 1862, 1863, 1864
Mississippi, 1862	Virginia, 1862

World War I

Lorraine

World War II

Normandy	Ardennes
Northern France	Rhineland
Central Germany	

THE FIRST LEG

9 February, 1944 - 10 March, 1944

THE train whistle blew a warning blast, and the cars began to back slowly out of the siding at Camp Bowie, Texas. The 174th Field Artillery Battalion was at last moving out for a P.O.E., after having been recalled from maneuvers in Louisiana to prepare for "a long sea voyage." The battalion movement had been preceded by the advance party consisting of Capt. Harold I. Huggins, C.W.O. Rudolph A. Koehler, and T/4 Earl E. Binnebose who left on 9 February under secret orders for an eastern port of embarkation. This party arrived at Fort Hamilton, N. Y. on 12 February where they were duly processed, boarded the S. S. Aquitania and set sail on 21 February for somewhere beyond the deep briney blue.

The battalion left Brownwood, Texas, at approximately 1500 hours, 17 February, 1944. Poker games rapidly got under way as did chess, checkers, rummy, and just plain sight-seeing. The cactus-covered plains of Texas slid rapidly past. Night fell. And the next morning we looked out on the dusty stretches of Oklahoma. Later in the day we had a rest halt at Wichita, Kansas, and the following morning a view of the snow-bedecked railroad yards of Chicago. That night we sped through Ohio, the birthplace of the unit from which the Battalion was formed. Some men pointed to the lights and houses we passed saying, "That's where I live," "That's where I worked," "That's where my girl lives!" "Whose car is that in front of the house?" On the third day we went through Buffalo, New York, and the cold began to creep into blood thinned by the mild Texas climate. The train ran down the shores of the Hudson River, which



*Situation Normal.
Everything well in hand.*

was frozen from bank to bank, and finally arrived at Camp Shanks, New York, at about 2200 hours on the night of 20 February, 1944. At last we were at a P.O.E. where we could buy Zippo lighters!

We were processed rapidly. We learned that Zippo lighters were all in England. We did practice debarking exercises using nets hanging from walls simulating the sides of a ship, and with full pack climbed down into lifeboats bobbing about in a small body of water. After receiving innumerable shots and physical inspections everyone got ready to accept the passes to New York City which were to be given out when processing was completed. But we were doomed to disappointment on that score; when processing was finished we were alerted and, on the morning of 25 February, with embarkation numbers chalked on our helmets, we

were marched under full pack and in full field for a mile and a half. Upon reaching the railroad we were greeted by an army band playing stirring martial tunes.

We boarded the train, found seats, stowed our luggage, and were played off the post with the strains of "Over There" ringing in our ears. The train sped swiftly through the sunshine. Some of the men passed within sight of their homes, but with everything on the sidings for us, we did not stop until we reached the end of the line. Grunting and straining under the terrific duffle bags and full field equipment, we piled off the train, fell in, and marched onto a small vessel. Many of us were a little nervous about taking so long a trip on such a crowded little ship, but we felt better when we discovered that what we had boarded was only the ferry across the Hudson River. We negotiated the first water leg of our journey without being torpedoed or even attacked by enemy planes, and docked safely at Pier 54. To the left of the pier lay the **Maurentania**. "Ah, a luxury-liner trip," we thought. But, as usual, we were wrong.

After falling in according to the embarkation numbers on our helmets, we were steered up to the foot of a long gangplank running up and into a hole in the rust-streaked side of a large gray ship. Our embarkation lists* were checked, and we were sent

* For complete Embarkation Roster refer to Appendix.

staggering under our loads up the steep and swaying treadway and onto what we later discovered was the **H. M. S. Samaria**, a former British passenger ship which had been converted into a troop transport. We were assigned quarters and promptly decided that what was meant by "quarters" on a troop transport was that one had literally about one-quarter of the room necessary to keep your gear in and sleep too! Canvas bunks, two wide and four high, filled



*Just like one big happy family.
We were all made comfortable aboard.*

all available space except for a narrow walkway between the rows of bunks.

We were the first unit aboard and, because we were a combat outfit, we were assigned the duties of manning the ship's AA guns, and being the ship's MP's and KP's. At first there was the usual griping about being assigned these duties, but we later discovered that we were pretty lucky; since we were working, we got better quarters and somewhat better food than the others.

The other passengers came aboard all the rest of that day and night, and loading was completed about the middle of Sunday morning, 27 February, when a bunch of nurses, newspaper correspondents, and a USO troupe came aboard. During lunch we felt a slight swaying movement of the ship and when we came out on deck we found we were being backed slowly out into the Hudson River by some busy little tugs. After reaching midstream the ship's motors began to turn over, and we glided easily on through slate-grey water and intermittent snow flurries toward the Statue of Liberty. We soon passed

Bedloe Island, and a little later a small tug towed the submarine net aside to let us through. When the Harbor pilot was dropped off in a small boat and waved goodbye to us we gulped and felt mighty lonesome out there by ourselves. In our mind's eye we could see the water below and all around us fairly working with U-boats, and the skies above us full of enemy planes. A navy blimp and some of our own planes circled around us for a while and we felt it was pretty nice of them and hoped they intended to stay with us all the way. On the same date as the battalion sailed from New York the advance party landed at Greenock, Scotland on the Clyde River, and proceeded to First Army Headquarters at Bristol, England, where they were assigned the mission of preparing for the welfare and comforts of the battalion when they arrived.

After an uneasy night we awakened to find ourselves in the center of a large convoy of ships which we had joined during the night. Destroyers were running busily around the fringes of the convoy like dogs keeping a herd of sheep together, and although our ship had several large naval guns manned by British crews, we felt as defenseless as sheep, and ardently hoped the navy would stay on the ball and keep those submarines away. During the morning we held our first practice lifeboat drill and tried our guns, so as to be ready in case anything happened.

The days and nights began to pass in an endless monotony broken only by impromptu shows put on by the USO troupe under very difficult conditions. The ship was packed to the gunwales; for in addition to our own unit, the nurses, and the USO people, we had about 4,500 air corps administrative troops and officers on board. The food became steadily worse, and, as the British method of messing was entirely different from the one we

were used to, and their menus typically British, everyone got pretty hungry. Two meals a day were served, one at about 0900 and another at about 1700 hours. There was kippered herring or liver and bacon for breakfast and spam for supper; all of it tasted of mutton! In any event, this was not our idea of food. British coffee quickly fell into disrepute, so the wiser people drank tea or water whenever possible. When the ship's canteen finally opened, we bought great quantities of bitter-sweet chocolate and cherry drops, which did much to stave off the pangs of hunger until everyone became sick of the sight of both of them. During the voyage all females aboard became extremely popular and some of the men seemed to do very well.

The weather eventually grew rough and the old ship plunged and tossed. Many of the GI's tossed, too! The old saying "It's a great life if you don't weaken," directed at some seasick GI, invariably brought the comeback "What's the matter? Ain't I throwin' it as far as anyone?" One GI who had forgotten his life preserver called down to a sick friend, "Hey, throw up my life preserver, will you?" and got the reply, "To hell with you. I didn't eat it."

Time sailed slowly past. The weather continued rough. The none-too-sturdy **Samaria**, creaking and straining in every joint, plowed grimly onward in spite of the propeller shaft that sounded as if it had an elbow in it. The stern pitched high in the air and waves churned over the foredeck, but each time the ship raised her head out of the froth, shook the water out of her eyes, stuck her head back under, and plowed on like a breast-stroke champion.

Late one afternoon, after two weeks of battling with storms, there finally came the cry "Land Ho," and far ahead, rising out of the mists, could be seen the shores of Northern

Ireland. Part of the convoy turned off here and made for Glasgow, Scotland, but we turned our nose southeast and sailed into the glassy, smooth Irish Sea glinting cheerfully in the late afternoon sunshine. To our left we could make out the blue shores of Scotland, and we began to feel secure again -- that is, until word got around that the submarines usually hit more ships right here in the Irish Sea than anywhere else!

About midnight all movement ceased except for a slight up-and-down motion, and the motors which had not been silent for two weeks finally stopped. When dawn broke we dashed on deck to get a look at this land to which he had come, but were confronted with an impenetrable and soupy fog that reduced visibility to about 20 yards. We swung aimlessly at the end of our anchor chain for hours, but the fog finally lifted and could see all about us the hulks of ships that had been blasted by German air attacks. Sea gulls swept around the ship, screeching and crying and snatching at bits of food floating on the water. Aircraft carriers, destroyers, merchant ships, and battleships lay thick in the roads. Other transports filled with troops

tarried on all sides waiting to dock. We later learned that our convoy was one of the largest of the war.

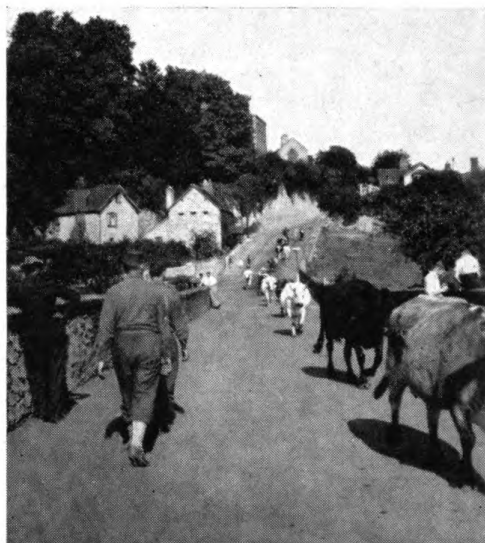
Just before dark on the evening of 10 March we weighed anchor, began to run in toward the shore, and finally pulled into the Mersey River where we docked at the Mersey Docks and Harbor at Liverpool, England. Of course "Mersey Docks" invited quips because of the similarity of the name to "Mairsy Doats," and soon the song was being sung with "Mersey Docks" as substitute words. A British military band, playing typically British music which no one recognized, stood on the roof of a warehouse to welcome us; and since we had been cooped up on the boat for two weeks even they sounded good. The rest of the evening was spent hanging over the rail of the ship gawking at the MP'S in white helmets, belts, and leggings, the tall British policemen in their funny hats, the strange British uniforms, and the women dockworkers. We got our first glimpse of automobiles with their steering wheels on the wrong side, too, but most of the attention was directed at the women dockworkers. Darkness fell and we all went below for our last night aboard ship.

MERRIE OLDE ENGLAND

11 March, 1944 - 27 July, 1944

BRIGHT and early on the morning of 11 March, 1944, the Battalion debarked from *H.M.S. Samaria* at Liverpool, England. After struggling up a long ramp into a bomb-torn railway station, we deposited our luggage in a "goods wagon" and climbed into the "compartments" of a dinky little English passenger train. An American Red Cross girl served us coffee and donuts, cigarettes, and chewing gum before the *Johnny Bull Luxury Flyer* pulled out with a shrill squeal of the whistle. We clacked rapidly over the rails through a countryside marked by canals and canal boats, small farms, great steel furnaces, and many small villages of soot-covered houses whose tiny back yards accommodated the family air raid shelters. The cold damp wind seeped through the cracks of the windows and doors of the compartments, and we steadily became more and more uncomfortable.

Shortly after noon we pulled into Shrewsbury and were served English-style coffee by the Ladies of the British Home Service. Back on the train again, we passed snow-covered hills and great lines of vehicles gathered in preparation for the invasion of *Festung Europa*. Now that we had arrived, we felt the moment could not be too far off! Late in the afternoon, after careening dangerously down a long winding hill, the train halted at the town of Abergavenny, England, where the battalion was met by the advance party who had everything "fixed" as all advance parties do(?). Here we loaded on trucks and for the first time took off down the wrong side of the road. A few minutes later we arrived at the former British permanent Camp



Street Scene, Ludlow, England.

Court-Y-Gallen (*Kahry-Gath n*), Wales, and joined the 258th F.A. Group consisting of two battalions of M12's, the 258th and the 991st F.A. Battalions.

Will you ever forget the plumbing with the sewer-pipe-style latrine, the hand-operated showers, and the wash basins? It is rumored that the guy who invented the stoves we had to use there finally unloaded his whole stock on British civilians who used them as extinguishers for incendiary bombs. Powdered eggs, marmalade, and peanut butter became everyone's pet aversion, and there was some talk of trying the originator of these items as a war criminal when we got back to the States.

Our trucks and guns had not arrived as yet, and there was very little work to be done, so as soon as we got settled in our new barracks we began visiting the nearby towns of Crickhowel, Abergavenny, Brecon, Merthyr Tydfil, Ebbw Vale, and

Pontypool. Sightseeing trips were run to Cardiff and to Bristol on Sunday afternoons, and pub-crawling became the Saturday night pastime. "Mild and Bitter" was the drink, and though most of us soon became disgusted with English beer we drank it, for that was all there was. Red Cross donut trucks occasionally came to the camp in the afternoons and entertained us with coffee, donuts, and recorded American music. Special Services provided picture shows on the post, but when they failed us we could go to town and see a show that was usually not more than ten years old. Some of the batteries gave parties and dances in Abergavenny at the Town Hall, and we became acquainted with the English girls who made up in friendliness what, in our opinion, they definitely lacked in beauty. Lorries and swarms of bicycles rushing down the wrong side of the narrow winding English roads became a menace to life and limb, and it was often necessary to scale one of the ancient stone walls that bordered all roads to avoid injury.

Here at Court-Y-Gallen, Lieutenant Ralph W. Word achieved the repu-

"Sir, I'd like to volunteer."



tation of being the most cooperative officer in the Battalion. He even volunteered to fly back to the States for some gun parts!

With guns borrowed from the other battalions we participated in a Group problem on the Forest Fawr Range, and got our first taste of what it felt like to get stuck in a swamp on the top or side of a mountain. On 15 April the Battalion marched to the southeast through Monmouth, Gloucester, Bristol, Bath, Trowbridge, and Market Lavington, to East Downs Camp on the Salisbury Plains and near the famous English artillery school of Sandhurst, to participate in a First Army coordinated artillery exercise. While we were there several air raid alarms were sounded; German reconnaissance planes had come over to take pictures of the exercises and of the concentration of troops which included several armored divisions and corps artillery. Indeed, there were so many troops at this point that we would not have been surprised had the invasion begun right then. Once, when troop transport planes towing gliders went over, the rumor circulated that the invasion was under way. We participated in our first TOT and got to see a coordinated artillery-bombing attack problem. During our spare time some of us got down to see the historically famous temple of the druids, Stonehenge, and others got close-up looks at the great British airfields in that part of the country.

On 23 April the Battalion received information that T/5 Edward C. Jones of "A" Battery, who had remained at Court-Y-Gallen, had been killed on 22 April when the truck in which he was riding overturned while driving blackout on one of those narrow winding English roads.

On 1 May the Battalion returned to Court-Y-Gallen where Capt. Gerald D. McGehee and 1st Lt. William P. Morris received the news they had

been promoted to Major and Captain respectively. On 2 May we moved on to Camp Ludford, one mile south of the village of Ludlow on the Teme River. Camp Ludford was a tent camp with absolutely no facilities for bathing except in the nearby river which was ice cold. At Ludford we spent our time swimming, playing softball, volley-ball, visiting nearby scenic spots such as Ludlow Castle, giving dances and parties, and garnishing camouflage nets. The damp, foggy, English weather, combined with sleeping in the heatless tents, brought many of the men down with sore throats, and it was necessary to hospitalize them near the famous town of Hereford.

We visited the towns of Ludlow, Bishop's Castle, Mortimers Cross, Craven Arms, Shrewsbury, Acton-on-Clun, Knighton, Birmingham, Hereford, and Tenbury Wells. When Battle Participation Credits were issued some of us thought we should have received a battle star for this campaign. Most of us made new acquaintances with the girls but some stuck to their old friends at Merthyr Tydfil and Ebbw Vale. The Batteries again had parties and dances at Ludlow, Bishop's Castle, Craven Arms, and Tenbury Wells. The girls were really crazy about us -- or our chewing gum. American cigarettes went over big with the adults, and every kid on the street greeted us with the V-sign and "Any gum, chum?"

Our speech, meanwhile, became sprinkled with such English expressions as: "Rawther," "You cawn't miss it," "I sye, old chawp," and "Cherrio." We soon learned that a truck was a "lorry," the hood "the bonnet," the windshield "the windscreen," and the fenders "the wings"; an elevator was a "lift," and a street-car was a "tram." We learned to eat "fish and chips," but no one could ever make us like kidney pie or boiled mutton.



*"A bit right, a bit left, you
cawn't miss it, old chawp."*

Here at Camp Ludford we got our first look at women working in the fields. Lovely young girls in GI shoes with pitchforks over their shoulders for the work at hand was a common sight. Women drove lorries and trams; they worked in the factories and on the railroads. The ATS and the WRENS got a big play from the boys, and most weekends found some of the lads courting them (in fact, one was found courting in his puppet down by the river!).

Since the English were on such short rations, we always carried food with us when we visited at their homes for meals. Their homes were spotless. The brass door-knockers were always polished, the windows glistened, and the sidewalks in front of the houses were scrubbed with a brush daily. We admired them greatly for their fortitude and courage under the German blitz, but both Briton and Yank were free in their criticisms of one another's actions and ideas. We considered them "a bit stuffy, don't you know, old man." And they were, until you came to know them very well.

Red Cross trucks still came to our area and served donuts, coffee, music and the opportunity to talk with real honest-to-goodness American girls. A USO show appeared once. We received seven packs of cigarettes and a couple of candy bars a week from the PX, but there were still no Zippo lighters. We were told that these elusive items were not available anywhere except in the concentration area in South England.

On 6 June, while we were quietly going about our normal duties, the radio blared out the news that the invasion had begun and had been unbelievably successful. We immediately began to pack our bags because we knew they could not do without us long now. We soon received word that we would hit the beach in France on "D + 19" or on 25 June. Since we had no guns as yet, this meant that we would have to travel around a great deal trying to find them. But we had no luck. Great convoys rolled past our area every day on their way to the South of England to the concentration area for cross-channel movement, or, as it was known officially, "a short sea voyage."

Then we received word that a ship had docked at Glasgow with our guns aboard, and a detail immediately left to bring them down to us. We finally got our guns about 17 June and went to Sennybrook Range near Brecon for calibration. When we returned we immediately set about water proofing the equipment and testing it in the Teme River. Orders were received on 19 June for the Battalion to move to Whitehouse Camp near Exeter, and there was a lot of last-minute scurrying around getting equipment together and kissing all the girls goodbye.

Our last gun arrived on the afternoon of 20 June and that night we moved out of Ludford Camp through Leominster, Great Malvern, Gloucester, Bristol, Bridgwater, Taunton,

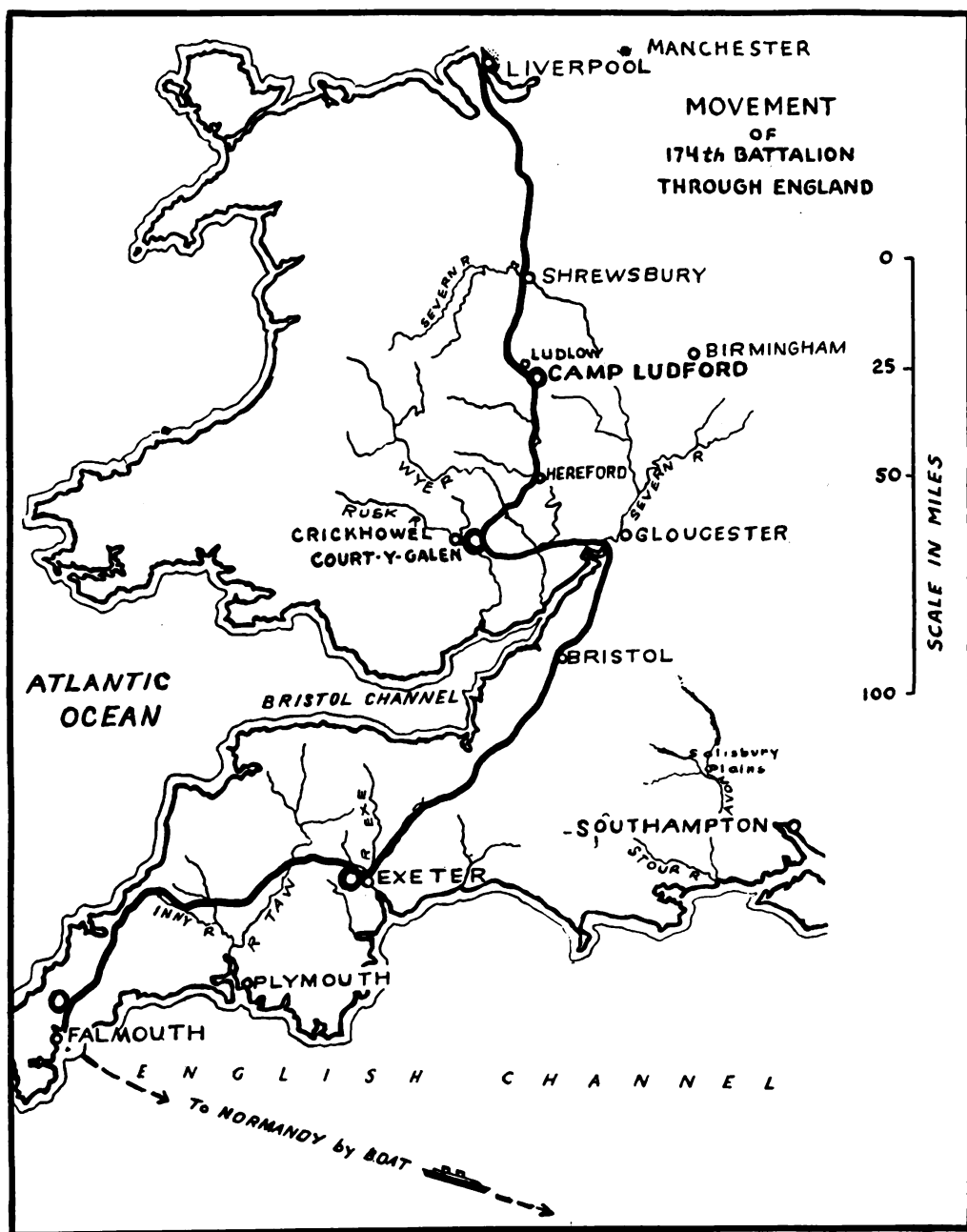
Wellington, and Exeter, to Whitehouse Camp at Chudleigh where we arrived at 0800 hours the morning of 21 June, after a march of approximately 189 miles. Here hot showers were available and we got our first real bath since leaving Abergavenny. Late in the afternoon we received orders to remove the water-proofing material as we would not need it in landing. During the night we received orders to move to "D Sausage" near Falmouth, a concentration area where we would receive our last polish and final supplies before shipping out.

The column moved out at 0800 hours the morning of 22 June and passed through Tavistock, Bodmin, Truro, Redrath, Camborne, and Helston, on the way to "D Sausage" just outside of Helston. We had completed a march of 300 miles in two days! When we arrived we learned that a bad storm had destroyed the piers on the beaches and that we would have to water-proof again for landing.

We re-water-proofed and gathered our supply shortages in an unceasing rain. Free PX rations were issued us for the first time; we saw a few picture shows and ate steak, chicken, fresh eggs, and beef. This sudden change from the rations we had been getting made us a little uneasy. Were we just being fattened for the kill? Nevertheless, everyone was raring to go on over before the guys already over there had killed all the Germans. We were told, finally, that all the Zippo lighters had already gone across-channel and we would have to wait until we got there before we could get one!

Due to a shortage of shipping, the equipment was not loaded until 27-28 June. Our ship was the Liberty ship, S. S. Lou Gehrig, and just at noon on 28 June we received orders to load all personnel for the trip.

We hastily snatched a hot roast beef sandwich, for which we had



strangely little appetite, piled into QM 6 x 6's, and under weeping English skies rode down through Falmouth to the docks. Finally, all was loaded and we were ready to go except for one tank, which was having a motor replaced, and the two

wreckers working on it. Just before the ship was ready to move, the screaming of sirens and the roar of powerful motors rent the foggy air. Did this mean an air raid? No. It meant that the tank and the wreckers, bowling at top speed

through the narrow winding streets of Falmouth, scattering bewildered civilians and soldiers before them, were racing hellbent to the docks to make the trip with the rest of the

Battalion. They made it. The vehicles were quickly lifted aboard and stowed above decks, and the crew set about making preparations for that "short sea voyage."

NORMANDY

28 June, 1944 - 31 July, 1944

LATE in the afternoon of 28 June, 1944, with all equipment secured and with four days 10-in-1 rations "top-side," we waved goodbye to England and pulled out of Falmouth harbor. The sun broke through the clouds as we left and with the bright sunshine playing upon the tiny blue waves it was hard to realize that beneath that serenity, German U-boats lurked with the purpose of slamming a torpedo into our belly. Early next morning the Lou Gehrig joined a convoy off Plymouth and turned south toward the beach-heads. During the voyage the time was spent trying to sleep on those washboard-like bunks, cleaning weapons, sharpening knives, playing chess, trying to cook 10-in-1's, and voluntarily studying TM30-602 (a French phrase book) with the object of learning such phrases as *Ma cherie*, *Je vous aime*, and *Couchez vous avec moi*.

Toward the end of the afternoon of 29 June we saw hundreds of bombers and fighters passing overhead going to and from the beaches where they were blasting the Germans. On the evening of 30 June, we anchored about a mile off Omaha Beach, our destination. At 2355 hours an air alert sounded and at 2400 hours the Luftwaffe gave us our baptism of fire. Several enemy planes passed overhead dropping flares and bombs, and strafing with their guns. Ack-ack filled the sky; .50 caliber and 40 mm. tracers arched through the air while the 90 mm. tore the night. We gulped, pulled our helmets on a little more securely, and whispered among ourselves, "Guess this is it." The Lou Gehrig came through without a scratch, and we began to feel like old soldiers, right away. On 1 July we

came to within about 500 yards of shore and began to unload into landing barges. Cannon fire and mine explosions could be heard not too far inland, but we were nevertheless all anxious to get ashore and see for ourselves just what this war was like.

Several days before our arrival a terrific storm had hit Normandy. Hundreds of wrecked ships were left in its wake; hulks cluttered the approaches to the beach and the beach itself. The LST carrying Capt. Harry A. ("Doc") Press and several "C" Battery guns hit one of these sunken hulks and began shipping water so rapidly that all hands began to wish they had kept polished up on their swimming lessons. No harm was done though; the LST was successfully beached on a sand bar a hundred yards off shore and the vehicles were driven to terra firma through the surf. The water-proofing material that we had put on and taken off so many times proved its worth at the beaches. It was occasionally necessary to drive through water so deep that the jeeps were almost submerged, and only the extended exhausts and the drivers' heads were above water. We unloaded on 1 and 2 July. The equipment was lowered into the LST's by winch, but the personnel had to use a tricky rope ladder that constantly threatened to duck them in the drink. On 2 July those still aboard ship witnessed the sinking of three ships near our own, one of which was a large transport which hit a mine and sank in twenty minutes.

We landed near the small fishing village of Vierville sur Mer, and by the evening of 2 July all personnel and equipment were safely ashore and had moved to a de-waterproofing area

one-half mile south of La Cambe. No one slept much our first night ashore. We stayed awake, so everyone said, to watch the AA firing on the Luftwaffe, and to watch the searchlights parade around the heavens.

The Battalion was attached on 3 July to the 333rd F. A. Group, VIII Corps, and given orders to move into rendezvous near Chef du Pont. The Battalion moved out about 2200 hours and arrived at its destination at about 2400 hours. There, to our surprise, we found that our orders had been changed and that we were to occupy positions and be ready to fire by daylight. Positions about two miles southwest of Chef du Pont were hastily reconnoitered and occupied. We had our first casualty of the war here, when a "C" Battery gun, moving into position, hit a land mine which blew a track off the tank, wounded Capt. Blaise S. Jackewicz, the B. C., in the leg, and scared hell out of the rest of us. Captain Jackewicz was immediately evacuated. 1st Lt. Francis Kraemer was given temporary command of the Battery. S/Sgt. George F. Freerksen, his mechanics, and the cannoneers worked

all night to get the gun back into action by daylight, and the Battalion reported for the first time "Laid and Ready."

"Baker" Battery registered, and the Battalion fired its first volley at 1200 hours, 4 July, 1944 when we participated in the "Gunnery's Choice Serenade"; at this time all cannon in position in Normandy fired simultaneously on the Jerries. We remained in this position until about 2300 hours and fired 84 rounds.

During the night of 4-5 July the Battalion moved to positions about two miles north of St. Jores with the mission of general support of the VIII Corps in its offensive against the La Haye du Puits area. This position was in an area previously captured and held by elements of the 82nd Airborne Division when they landed on D-day, and it gave us our first demonstration of the destructiveness of war. Many dead Germans and some dead Yanks were still lying about, and we began to realize that people get killed in wars and that death is a pretty final state. All houses in the area were smashed to the ground by the artillery and aerial bombardment; *beaucoup* dead cows pointed their feet at us and added a distinct aroma to the atmosphere. Many hundreds of prisoners were evacuated past this area and we got our first good look at the hoodlums know as the Master Race.

The Jerries were industriously firing at a small town near us and their poor marksmanship occasionally caused a shell to drop into our positions. After several such visits from stray 88's and 105's, the foxholes automatically descended another two or three feet! The lines

"I think that I shall never see

A foxhole deep enough for me" were unanimously accepted, and the favorite recreation became the construction, upholstering, and occupation of underground shelters.



"Who fired that shot! Double the Guard! Gimme a cigarette,"

Pvt. Anthony Miceli, of the Medical Detachment, won the dubious honor here of becoming Battalion veterinarian after he had successfully operated on several wounded cows. Here, too, were uttered words that will unquestionably ring on down through the corridors of time, close on the heels of other justly renowned statements such as "You may fire when ready, Gridley," etc.! Here marks the hallowed spot where 2nd Lt. William R. Mosby shouted out the incomparable order: "Who fired that shot? Double the guard! Gimme a cigarette!"

Three men were wounded on 8 July. In Number 3 Section of "B" Battery a fragment from a muzzle burst clipped Pfc. Robert O. Collum, but he returned to duty after receiving first aid. Two others, Lt. George G. Lorentz and Lt. Francis J. Kraemer received minor cuts and bruises when their plane engine quit on them immediately after they had taken off for an observing mission. Their powerless plane was headed for an evacuation hospital, and rather than land among the hospital tents and disturb the patients Lieutenant Lorentz turned and crash-landed in a nearby apple orchard, destroying the plane and playing hell with some farmer's apple crop. Lieutenant Kraemer remained on duty, But Lieutenant Lorentz was evacuated to the hospital.

On 9 July, Lt. William D. Reimann, with his driver, Pvt. Robert Kuhnlohe and radio operator, Pvt. Thomas D. Neale, fired his first observed mission using the guns of a light field artillery battalion. With well-placed time fire he was able to silence several enemy MG's and allow an infantry advance of several hundred yards. This was the first but not the last time these observers heard an infantryman say, "Next to God, our best friend is the artillery."

On 10 July, "Doc" Press resumed his practice of administering to civil-



Being initiated into the mysteries of French "Cidre."

ians, and treated a family of French refugees living in a cow stable who were suffering from wounds of various kinds received several days previously. The rest of us began to catch our breath and look about a bit. We observed for ourselves the notorious lack of restraint among Frenchmen in dealing with calls of nature. We became acquainted with a deadly peasant beverage, *cidre*.

The Battalion received orders on 12 July to move forward to positions east and south of La Haye du Puits. When Lt. Col. M. A. Langley and his party went forward to reconnoiter the position, they found, much to their displeasure and surprise, that the designated position was "no man's land." Observers in relays were placed near the positions to keep the Battalion informed of the progress of the battle, and during the evening of 14 July the area was reported clear of German troops. The Battalion was detached from the 333rd F. A. Group, promptly attached to the 174th F. A. Group, and ordered to move up. After firing 2,311 rounds, the Battalion moved out of the position they had occupied for about ten days.

The new position was about two miles south and east of La Haye du Puits and was occupied during the night of 14-15 July with the mission of general support of the VIII Corps. The position was what is known as "well forward" and it was indeed well forward. It was ahead of the infantry cannon companies, and before occupying position it was necessary to wait for a mortar platoon to move out. This position was on the famous "Hill 122" in Foret de Mont Castre which had been the scene of bitter and bloody fighting for more than a week. Large numbers of dead, human and animal, littered the area and the stench was almost unbearable. We were on the forward slope of the hill and the main road ran along the crest just in rear of our position. Enemy fire falling on and near this road kept us all pretty jumpy, for we never knew when Jerry might get a shot. Lt. Marion C. Cartledge established an OP in a hedgerow along the road and was just getting comfortably situated when he heard a shell coming in. He and his crew fell into their foxholes and an 88 landed about ten feet away. Damage: one small hole in the fender of the jeep, and the necessity for extra laundry for the OP personnel. Needless to say the OP was vacated -- but quick!

Sergeant Irving S. Wiseman and Pfc. You Lee were occupying an OP farther down the road and were shelled constantly. One heavy shell every three minutes dropped in their immediate vicinity until a fragment knocked the switch off their telephone. That was close enough to convince them that they personally were the object of the German harassing fire, so another OP was quickly and efficiently abandoned.

Spasmodic fire landed in our area almost constantly, and at 1400 hours, 15 July, "C" Battery received a heavy concentration which wounded Cpl.

Albert W. Adams and Pfc. Wilbur R. German. Both men returned to duty after receiving first aid. "C" Battery continued to receive harassing fire throughout the night but it failed to upset their schedule of harassing fire on the Germans. The Battery would fire and then head for their foxholes and wait for their "incoming mail" which usually got there right behind them. No damage was done until at about 0400 hours, 16 July when they received a heavy concentration which scored a direct hit on one truck. At 1400 hours, another heavy concentration landed in the Service Battery area but it luckily was about 100 yards short in range. At 1730 hours Headquarters Battery received a concentration of about 50 rounds but suffered no casualties or damage. While in this position the Battalion fired 232 rounds. Lieutenant Alfred L. Carlson got a good target when an observation battalion OP near the Battalion CP pointed out to him a truck column on the road. After a rapid adjustment all available artillery was brought in on the target, and smoke and flame could be observed for miles. This mission was given special mention in the Corps Artillery Bulletin for the day. Lieutenant Lorentz returned to duty on this day after a week in the hospital.

The Battalion was detached from the 174th F. A. Group, 17 July, 1944, attached to 202nd F. A. Bn., and moved to positions about three miles south of Carentan, where it was given the mission of general support of the 83 Inf. Div. We were given to understand that we were being moved into a quiet sector for several days, but we dug in our positions anyhow. At 0805 hours, 18 July, Headquarters Battery area was shelled and two rounds landed between FDC and the CP and several others near other installations. We suffered no casualties or damage, but we overheard T/4 James Crawford making bitter re-



One can't be too particular in times like these, Sergeant.

marks about our "quiet" area as he crawled out of the garbage pit. At 1720 hours, our organic .50 caliber MG's got their first combat workout when they cut loose on an ME109 that was indiscreet enough to fly over our area. The plane was shot down, but of course the honors went to the regular AAA in our vicinity.

The Battalion did not fire any missions while attached to the 202nd F. A. Bn. Pvt. Jose P. Lovato was lost to the Battalion when a 20 mm. shell exploded in his hands, and he was evacuated to the hospital.

On 19 July the Battalion was detached from the 202nd F. A. Bn. and attached to the 196th F. A. Group. But we remained in the same positions until 24 July when, in order to make way for a new fighter-plane strip, the Battalion moved to our alternate positions about one mile east, near the Carenton-St. Lo highway. This area had been fiercely contested by the enemy and thousands of mines and booby traps were still there. Some of our number found them the hard way. While pulling a limb off a tree to use for camouflage T/5 Galion M. Moore, Battery "C",

set off a booby-trapped dynamite charge, was wounded and had to be evacuated. He later returned to the States. Cpl. U. Vaughn Copeland and Pvt. Glen J. Berg, while clearing the "A" Battery area, probed into an S-mine or mustard pot and were wounded and evacuated. Corporal Copeland was returned to duty after receiving treatment, but Private Berg was hospitalized. We felt we were pretty lucky not to have had more casualties here. Engineers came in to help us clear the area, and with the use of mine detectors we were successful in either removing or exploding many of the mines. After being in position two days, Capt. William P. Morris discovered that he had been sleeping under an S-mine which was hanging in the bushes by his car.

During the night of 24 July the Battalion received word that its mission was changed and that on the following day we would have an anti-flak mission in addition to our general support mission. At about 0900 hours, 25 July we became conscious of a low powerful roar somewhere in the distance behind us. A short time later a few planes passed overhead and German flak began to dot the skies. The artillery in the area opened up all around us. The low powerful roar had become a mounting crescendo of vibration that shook the ground. The sky was literally full of planes—thirty, sixty, then hundreds of planes, stretching to the rear as far as the eye could see! The flak grew in intensity. There was suddenly a burst of flame from one plane, then another, and a third. The rumble of falling bombs grew louder and louder and filled the air until the sound was deafening. It seemed the planes would never stop coming. Then we began to realize that this must be the big push -- the attempt to break the Germans in France. It was indeed the beginning of the Break-

through, and we learned later that approximately 3,500 planes had participated in this particular bombing which shattered the backbone of the German forces on our front.

The Battalion fired 982 rounds while in this position. And then, in supporting the VIII Corps, whose mission was to pursue the enemy retreating southward, the Battalion took up positions four miles southwest of Fougères. The 83rd and 4th Infantry Divisions and the 4th Armored Division had fought through this area in forcing the Breakthrough. Judging from the large numbers of dead, the knocked-out tanks and guns, and the amount of mines and equipment still scattered about, this must have been one of the most fiercely contested battlefields of the war. One of the vehicles of the AAA unit attached to the Battalion struck a mine on the way into position, killing and wounding several of their men. Nearly half of our Battalion had passed over this mine without setting it off. We did not fire from this area because the enemy was getting too far ahead of us, and we spent our time instead collecting the dead. Fourteen dead Yanks were picked up in "A" Battery position alone. Twenty-seven dead cows occupied Headquarters Battery area and the pungent odor emanating from that type of scenery made moving up a pleasure.

Continuing the pursuit of the enemy, on 30 July the Battalion moved to positions about three miles southwest of Periers. In this position many mustard pot mines were found. One of them provided fresh beef for Service Battery when a fine, tender, young cow trod unwarily upon it. That's the mess sergeant's story, anyway.

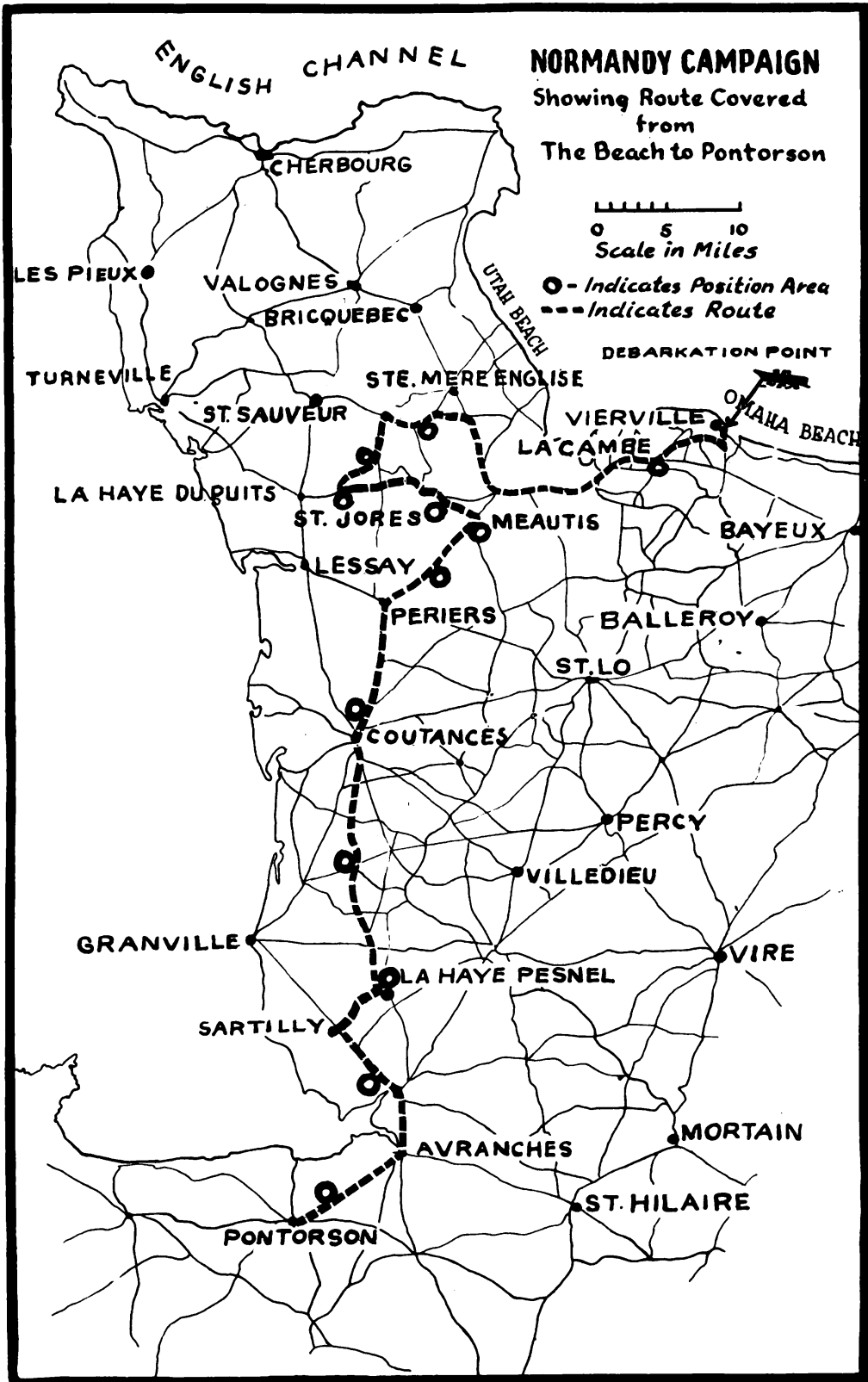
On 31 July the Battalion moved



" - - and that is how come we have this here beef, Captain."

into rendezvous about five miles south of Coutances. While on the march to this area several ME109's strafed the main road, parallel to and one-half mile to the east of our route of march. After dark the Luftwaffe came over in force and dropped flares and bombs both to the south and to the west of our position. No one got much sleep that night because every time a bomb dropped, it shook the apples off the trees and onto the individuals lying under them.

While operating in Normandy during the month of July, the Battalion fired a total of 3,519 rounds on 262 missions as follows: 83 counter-battery missions; 48 preparation and support missions; 62 harassing missions; 20 infantry targets; 13 interdiction missions; 7 serenades; 5 fortified positions; 4 counter-flak missions; 1 gas dump; 2 enemy tanks; 10 high burst registrations; 6 check point registrations; and 1 base point registration.



BRITTANY

1 August, 1944 - 31 August, 1944

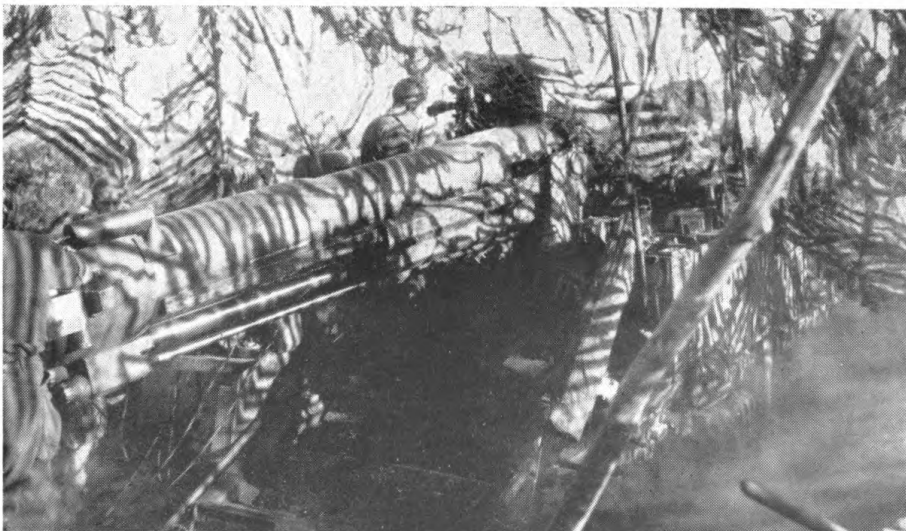
ON the first of August, 1944, the Battalion was detached from the 196th F.A. Group, was attached to the 6th Armored Division, VIII Corps, and moved into rendezvous about two miles northwest of Avranches.

Captain James W. Powers and driver T/4 Howard Hodge were told to establish liaison with the artillery commander of CCB of the 6th Armored, whose CP was at Pontorson. They passed through Avranches where German snipers were still making things uncomfortable, and were riding casually along the highway to Pontorson, enjoying the scenery strewn with German vehicles which had been destroyed by the air force and 6th Armored Division, when they suddenly began to notice that a number of American vehicles were burning along the road. About halfway between Avranches and Pontorson they came to a road block of three

American M7's (self-propelled 105's) that were burning furiously, and then became aware that the ditches beside the road held a number of dead and wounded Yanks. The Jeep, almost of its own accord, wheeled around and took off back up the road. Upon questioning a tank commander as to the whereabouts of the artillery CP, they were informed that if the artillery commander was in Pontorson, he was there with only the Germans, for the town had not yet been taken, and that the road block was the farthest point of advance of the Combat Command. The M7's had belonged to Battery "A", 231 Armored Bn. and the Battery had been about 50 per cent destroyed in three minutes. After evacuating a load of wounded picked up on the way, our liaison party began looking for the artillery CP farther to the rear.

While the Battalion was standing

*155 mm gun in full recoil in action at Bourg Blanc,
Brittany August, 1944.*



by for orders in a field alongside the highway all hell suddenly broke loose at 1945 hours. Nine FW190's came out of the sun at tree-top level and strafed and bombed the Battalion area. The men were so taken by surprise that many did not have time to hit their foxholes, but they quickly burrowed under hedgerows using their noses as the chief implement of excavation. There was no command, "Cover," but automatically everyone not on an AA gun took cover, *toute de suite*. Our Battalion machine gunners gave a damn good account of themselves. They stood their ground and fired their guns in spite of the hail of MG fire and the bursting of rockets around them. Service Battery's machine gun crew, consisting of Cpl. Glenn L. O'Connor, T/5 Howard L. Waters, Pfc. Bob F. Gilliam and Pvt. Edward S. Rutto, displayed the first qualities of real fighting men when they continued to fire point blank at one plane even though the Jerry's guns were ripping their parapet to pieces. Our machine gunners and the attached unit of the 455th AAA Battalion claimed the destruction of three enemy planes in this engagement but we did not escape unscathed.

The Medical Detachment's $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton weapons carrier was hit and destroyed by fire, and the medic's jeep had a tire blown out and a hole put in the radiator. The Service Battery maintenance truck had a hole through the driver's seat and one through the top of the gas can. The personnel truck had a tire blown out. We suffered our first fatality here when one of our oldest and most popular men, T/4 Wilson B. Bradbury of "A" Battery, was killed by rocket fire. We also had twelve men wounded: Cpl. Francis E. Rohan, Pfc. Albert F. Braulke, Pfc. Paul Angrisano, Pvt. Ray D. Dixon, Pvt. Joseph Celis, and Pvt. Sidney Goldfine, all of "A" Battery; T/5 Benjamin H. Pickett, and Pfc.

Clifford G. Eastman, of Headquarters Battery; Cpl. Isadore Montoya, and Pfc. Theodore Satoe, Medical Detachment; Cpl. Conio J. Coviello, of "B" Battery; and Cpl. Horace M. Foster, from Service Battery. Ironically, all casualties were in foxholes when hit and all but Corporal Foster had to be evacuated. The Medical Detachment won the admiration and respect of the Battalion here by their speedy and efficient treatment of their wounded comrades; they disregarded their own injuries and the fact that their aid station containing their medical and personal equipment was a blazing inferno. The death of Sergeant Bradbury, an excellent soldier, was a great shock to everyone. At Avranches we began to hate.

Pfc. Marvin N. McEnroe and Pvt. Olin A. Sturgis of "C" Battery had an experience that will long remain vividly in their minds. As they were driving back along the road to pick up a truck that had fallen out, the column in which they were driving was bombed and strafed by German planes. At the approach of the enemy planes they vacated their vehicles, took cover in the ditch beside the road, and watched with their hair on end while vehicles both behind and in front of them received direct hits from rockets. The dust cleared up and they cleared out, uninjured but unhappy.

During the night of 1-2 August the Battalion moved blackout over roads where elements of the 4th Armored Division and the 6th Armored Division and an anti-aircraft regiment were jammed bumper to bumper for miles, forcing their way through the bottleneck of Avranches to effect a continued breakthrough of the German forces. At 0100 hours the Battalion moved into rendezvous about two miles northeast of Potorson, and in that vicinity the 6th Armored Division was divided into "Combat Command A" (CCA) and "Combat Command B"

(CCB). The 174th F.A. Bn. was attached to Combat Command "B" which was composed of: 50th Armored Inf. Bn., 69th Tank Bn., Company B 603 TD Bn., Company "A" 25th Armored Engineer Bn., Company "B" 777 AAA Bn., 128th Armored Bn., 231st Armored F.A. Bn., 86th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, and last, but by no means least, the 174th F.A. Bn.

Enemy planes were overhead almost constantly throughout the night, strafing along the highway, bombing the bridge at Avranches, and just prowling around looking for something to shoot at. On the whole it was a rather uneasy night for everyone, but by observing "no lights, no counter-offensive, and good camouflage discipline" the Battalion was spared in these attacks. Just before daylight everyone was awakened by enemy planes flying low over our position and strafing the road we had just left. But by this time we were all so tired that we just pulled the covers of our sacks up over our heads and hoped we didn't get hit. Our hopes were justified, for we suffered no casualties.

At 0800 hours on 2 August, CCB began their march into Brittany with the mission of capturing Brest. The city of Dinan was our first objective and we moved on it displaying an awesome array of armor and power with "A" Battery in the advance guard of the Combat Command, and "B" and "C" Batteries in the main body. As we rolled along the highways the French populace, who had been informed of our advance by the **Maquis** (French underground), lined the roads and welcomed us with showers of flowers, wine, calvados, cognac, cider, eggs, kisses, and cheers of "**Vive l'Amerique.**" Flags of all the Allies hung from the buildings; the tricolor, homemade stars and stripes, the Russian hammer and sickle, and union jacks. Young girls

dressed in red, white, and blue lined the roads, laughing and cheering us on with cries of "**Vive la France,**" "**Finis la guerre,**" and "**Boche kaput.**" At every halt beautiful young mademoiselles, and some not so beautiful, and some not so young and not mademoiselles, and old, bewhiskered **grandpere** rushed out to our vehicles and hugged and kissed us. Everyone seemed to welcome the enthusiasm of the young ladies, but there was a lot of dodging and ducking when some old codger shoved a face full of whiskers into a vehicle and wanted to kiss all present on both cheeks. The flower-bedecked and festooned vehicles soon took on the appearance of Mardi Gras floats, arms grew tired from handshaking, and eyes bleary from the spirit and spirits of the occasion. We reciprocated by freely distributing **les bonbons** to all the kids, and cigarettes to everyone. TM30-602's were ripped to shreds in vain attempts to make conversation with the people, and though fancy phrases such as **Enchante de faire votre connaissance** were heard oc-



"It had to be you."

asionally, the guys who seemed to do the best were those who just holstered, "Hey babe, how 'bout a kiss!"

In spite of this gay atmosphere there was still a war on, and up ahead men were fighting and dying as we pushed forward to our objective. At important crossroads we would pass small groups of FFI men with machine guns trained down a side road, or in small towns an old French poilu, with an ancient Lebel rifle and his old French helmet, standing at "Present Arms" while our entire column passed. During the morning the point of CCB fought several brisk skirmishes with isolated MG nests and snipers, but the resistance was usually mopped up without delaying the column.

At about 1400 hours we ran into stiff opposition just east of Dinan, when the Point received fire from enemy tanks and anti-tank guns. As fire was heavy it was decided to commit both battalions of light artillery and one battery of the 174th F.A. Bn. A position was designated near a main crossroad about five miles east of Dinan, and "B" Battery was ordered into position. "B" began to double the column in order to reach the position, but before arriving, "C" Battery was also ordered to go into the position at the same place. The French did not seem to realize the urgency of our moves and almost had to be run down before they would clear the roads so that our vehicles could pass. "B" and "C" moved into the designated position but found it occupied by German troops. With help from the FFI and from a couple of tanks from the column, they soon cleared the area and reported "Laid and Ready." Lieutenant Donald D. McNitt sent back the fire commands for the registration, but before the Batteries could fire the cannoneers had to clear the civilians out from in front of the guns. The first mission was fired on a Tiger tank and al-

though no hits were observed the tank was forced to withdraw. A short time later the light artillery opened up on the same target and the artillery commander was heard to remark, "Mallory Blue is really on the ball. They beat our own light artillery into position." "Mallory Blue" was the code for the 174th Bn. While firing these missions the Battalion was also busily engaged in rounding up Germans in their position area, and before moving out 62 German soldiers were captured. During this engagement Battalion Agent Cpl. J. K. Herring, a driving fool, careened up and down the roads carrying messages in spite of the enemy snipers who kept potting at him every time he passed. The combat commander decided that to capture Dinan would delay our column too long, so orders were issued for a slight withdrawal of the forward elements in order that we could by-pass the town.

The question of what to do with the prisoners soon arose. We had no transportation to take them with us and no means of sending them to the rear. So they were turned over to an FFI officer who wanted them and said he had a place to keep them. He probably had a "good" place for them, too. At 1700 hours we moved out to by-pass Dinan and left its capture up to the 83d Inf. Div., that was mopping up behind us. While in this position we fired 64 rounds on targets of opportunity on the eastern edge of Dinan.

Our next objective was Evran where we arrived without incident just before dark, and CCB went into rendezvous just south of the town. The Battalion positions were near the town of St. Thual, and as we pulled into our area we were greeted by eight young men dressed in civilian clothes. Their first words were "Who's winning the World Series?" After the shock had worn off, they explained that they were all Ameri-

can airmen who had been forced down in this area, and that the natives had endangered their own lives by feeding and hiding them until the arrival of Allied troops. While waiting for the column to arrive Capt. Willie L. Scott received information from some excited Frenchman that two Germans were in the woods nearby. He simply walked a short way into the woods, quietly accepted their surrender, and thus became the first officer in the battalion to own a P38.

Soon after closing into the rendezvous area, it was learned that Service Battery, which was to have marched with CCB Service Train in rear of the combat elements, had failed to receive march orders and were still in rendezvous near Pontorson. 1st Lt. Philip H. Bagwell and 2nd Lt. Marion C. Cartlidge went back to guide Service Battery forward. They left the area at about 2130 hours and after traveling only four miles captured three Jerries whom they delivered to a PWI. The Boche still frequented the woods on both sides of the road but in spite of this they reached Service Battery and got it on the road about midnight. German planes were continually active overhead and it was necessary to observe strict blackout discipline to keep from revealing the Battery's movement. While making a sharp turn the head of the column got away from the remainder of the Battery. On losing contact 1st Sgt. Samuel D. Jones, Battery "A", halted the column and notified 2nd Lt. William D. Reimann of the situation. Lieutenant Reimann and Captain Richard A. Reid held a conference and decided rather than wait until someone came back for them they would try to catch up. Captain Reid took the lead, and by feeling for tank tracks at the turns and asking ambulance drivers returning from the forward elements for directions he was able to keep the column on the right road. Somewhere

in a town along the way Germans were observed running down an alley, but for some unexplained reason they did not fire on the column. At 0500 hours, 3 August, Lieutenants Bagwell and Cartlidge reached the Battalion and then discovered they had only part of the column with them. They immediately went back to find the remainder of the column and soon located it about five miles out of Evran "feeling" its way forward. Service Battery closed into position at about 0600 hours and again the rations came through. With the rations also came Pfc. Albert F. Braulke, who was returning from the hospital where he had been sent after being wounded at Avranches on 1 August.

Shortly after daybreak, on 3 August, CCB continued the march with the mission of capturing Brest. Throughout the day pockets of light resistance were encountered and successfully dealt with by the forward elements. The civilians continued to pour out their greetings (and their wine), to wave, and to cheer us on. The Battalion was not committed on this day, and occupied for the night a rendezvous area about four miles east of Loudeac.

Although the day was quiet for the column, all was not beer and skittles for our organic air cover. The observation planes of the units in the column were used for observation to the front, rear, and flanks of the column, and carried out this mission by flying one at a time from the rear to the head of the column, where they would land in a field alongside the road. Three planes remained in a field for a time after the column had passed and were ambushed on the ground by German troops who were closing in behind the column as soon as it had passed. Lieuts L. T. Gray and Donald D. McNitt managed to get their plane off the ground, as did one of the others, but the third plane,

one from the Division Artillery, was unable to get his motor started and was caught on the ground. The pilot took cover in a ditch and returned the Germans fire with his .45 until he ran out of ammunition. The Germans then closed in and killed him. Lieutenants Gray and McNitt returned to find out what had been done with the pilot who was caught, and saw him lying there. They went in close to see if he were dead, and as they pulled up they came under MG fire from the Germans. Lieutenant McNitt returned the fire with his carbine, and a lucky, or unlucky, burst caught Lieutenant Gray in the leg. Lieutenant Gray then evacuated himself to the nearest hospital after he managed to land his plane undamaged in spite of his painful wound.

When the column made a short halt about 1500 hours, a section of it found itself in a small town. Among others were the following: Lieutenant William R. Mosby, T/5 Walter A. Witte, and Pfc. Marvin N. McEnroe of "C" Battery; Lieutenant Franklin L. Smith, S/Sgt. Everett W. Cooper, Cpl. John P. Watkins, T/4 Irving M. Wiseman, Pfc. James H. Elliot, Cpl. Franklin L. Wilson, Pfc. Donald W. Carter, T/4 Walter H. Tipton of Headquarters Battery; T/4 Charles LeJambre, T/4 Kieran Rigney, Pfc. Peter N. Nickologanis of Service Battery; Cpl. James R. Kelly of "A" Battery, T/5 Willard D. Cleveland of "B" Battery; and Capt. Harry A. Press and S/Sgt. Robert O. Brannon of the Medical Detachment. As these men busied themselves with cognac, etc., passed out by the local belles, they were pestered by a persistent old Frenchman who kept trying to tell them something. Meanwhile, the column quietly got under way again and this group was left sitting in the town.

Suddenly rifle and machine gun fire rent the gay holiday air, and almost instantly the streets were de-

serted except for the four vehicles and their occupants. MG fire spattered down the street and all of the men took cover behind buildings and tried to spot the guns. They were beginning to wish (1) that they had paid attention to the old Frenchman who had been vainly attempting to tell them about the guns, (2) that some tanks would show us, and (3) that they had stayed closer to the column. "Doc" Press was heard to say, "This is when I feel so foolish -- no gun!" T/4 LeJambre and T/4 Rigney spotted a MG in the church steeple and fired a couple of clips at it. Cpl. Watkins and Pfc. Elliot were cut off from the rest of the men by the MG fire and undertook to slip around behind the church to take the gun from the rear.

One of our reconnaissance units with the tanks approached and the fire stopped. All our vehicles left the town with a rush, but Corporal Watkins and Pfc. Elliot were not with them. Then the tanks came in and wiped out the MG nests with a few well-placed shots. A truck loaded with Germans dashed out right in front of one tank and took off down the road, but several rounds from the tanks (75mm) fixed the truck and most of the occupants. The rest of the Germans were captured. Corporal Watkins and Pfc. Elliott were later picked up by the tanks and returned to their battery.

As the column pulled out of Evran headed west, the Battalion train pulled out headed east toward the supply dumps to refill their empty trucks. In view of the long hard blackout march of the night before, the rations just had to come through and Service Battery was well aware of the adage that "an army travels on its stomach." So Service Battery went to bring up the "C's" and "K's" to find out if we could stomach them.

During the day we had quite a bit of sniper trouble, and the **Maquis** re-

ported many snipers in the vicinity of the bivouac area. It was therefore necessary to double the guard, and many of the men, although tired out from the long day's grind, had to remain awake and alert all night.

On 4 August, CCB was granted a short reprieve when orders were issued that the march would not be continued until evening, as the CG wanted to give CCA time to come abreast of us. The two teams were traveling routes about 20 miles apart with CCB in the north and CCA in the south.

At 2200 hours on that day the march was resumed toward Brest. As we passed through Loudeac the FFI was standing at parade for us and there were dead Germans in every gutter. The Team marched all night, stopping only when it ran into resistance and again just before daylight to refuel. Civilians lined the roads far into the night watching the column pass. The column ran into heavy resistance four miles east of Carhaix, withdrew about a mile, and then swung north toward Morlaix.

Organized resistance was met south of Morlaix near Pleyber Christ about noon on 5 August and heavy fighting ensued. One light artillery battalion was pushed back several miles, where resistance stiffened. Just before dark all artillery was ordered into position, and the 174 F.A. Bn. occupied positions about two miles west of Lameanou. Heavy mortar fire fell on our leading elements until dark. The Battalion fired 20 rounds of harassing fire during the night.

In the meantime Service Battery was drawing rations at a well camouflaged supply dump, well to the rear, which was guarded only by a strategically placed half-track mounting a multiple .50 caliber. Dusk fell before all our trucks were loaded, so a patrol was sent to contact the combat elements of the Battalion. A few kilometers forward French civilians

warned the patrol of German MG's set up along the road and the patrol returned to the dump and attempted to move up by another road. They soon discovered that they were virtually surrounded, and that the Germans had moved back into their old positions as soon as the last tank had left. The patrol then returned again to the dump and the supply train took up defensive positions for the night. A "Burp" gun began to sputter near the dump and the officer in charge of the dump hastily formed a patrol of volunteers to go root the Germans out. T/Sgt. George D. Truly, S/Sgt. Charles H. Krupp, T/5 Morris E. Brooks, Pfc. Gilbert W. Floyd, Privates James R. Meredith and Rexford G. Reilly quickly became part of the patrol. After a short but decisive maneuver in the most approved infantry manner the patrol returned with three Heinies, one of whom was an arrogant Nazi captain who wanted to die for the Fuehrer. No one said whether or not he got his wish. Private Meredith was the sole casualty the patrol suffered. He fell into an abandoned German foxhole in the darkness and wounded his dignity. After a tense night the ration train moved out and rejoined the Battalion.

During the continuous march of 4-5 August many prisoners were taken by the team and the distance traveled was 78 miles.

The march was resumed again at 0800 hours, 6 August, and since the enemy had withdrawn during the night, very little trouble was encountered until shortly after noon when the Point was attacked by small remote-controlled tanks filled with explosive. It was decided to by-pass this danger and the column left the main highway again and used secondary roads. To get onto these roads it was necessary to negotiate a hairpin turn, and it was with great difficulty that we got our trucks pulling trailers around the turn. Major H. P. Snyder,

who commanded the combat elements of the Battalion, decided to keep the Battalion intact, so he pulled off the road and waited until all our vehicles had made the turn. As our Battalion was the last in the column on that day, we were left out by ourselves with only such protection as we alone could furnish. Major Snyder led the Battalion forward when everyone was ready to move, using his .45 pistol as a Point. By watching the tank tracks on the turns and by application of TM30-602 the proper route was followed; much to the relief of everyone, contact was made with the rest of the Team near Plouvorn about two hours later.

The service trains of the Combat Command reached the hairpin turn at 2400 hours. After a long delay all units negotiated the turn except Service Battery, 174 F.A. Bn., which was bringing up the rear of the column. In order that his column should remain intact, Capt. Kenneth G. Klein halted until the last of his trucks had made the turn. When the column was ready it moved out intact, but it was a long and lonesome ride out there in the dark. Without mishap, however, contact was made with the rest of the column about daylight. An ambulance company which caught up with Service Battery while they were halted at the turn unfortunately decided to go ahead on the main road rather than take the road through the woods, and ran straight into the waiting arms of the enemy force that the column had by-passed.

Only slight resistance was encountered on this day, although the column was shelled from the flank and rear by German guns which had been by-passed. Rendezvous positions were occupied near Lanhouarneau, and the Battalion position was about two miles west of the city. We made 34 miles this day. During the night the Germans shelled Lanhouarneau heavily, but as the Team had stopped



Frenchmen pass what had been their homes after it was necessary to shell out German mortar and machine gun emplacements here.

short of the town they suffered no damage.

At 0800 hours on 7 August, the march was continued with snipers becoming more numerous and more troublesome. At Lesneven and Kergaouran, snipers occupied the buildings and high ground in such force that many brisk fire-fights resulted before the Team and the service trains got through. Just outside the village of Kergaouran small arms fire coming from some farm buildings got so hot that it was necessary to spray the buildings indiscriminately with MG's to quiet them down. A truck full of Jerries appeared moving down the road and it was necessary for a tank to expend two rounds of HE to rack them up. Enemy personnel from the truck not catalogued as "good" after the smoke lifted were rounded up in short order. Pvts. Salvatore Lengio, Joseph Levinskas, and Anthony Miceli rounded up a few for themselves. Many shots were exchanged, and with the help of the FFI it is known that quite a few Jerries bit the dust.

As the combat elements of the team moved along the road the Germans would close in behind, so that usually the service trains caught more sniper fire than the combat elements. Service Battery arrived at Lesneven

just in time to help the FFI and the 86th Reconnaissance Squadron clean the town out again. Things got so hot that it was necessary for them to dismount and help. During the ensuing fracas T/5 Clifford E. Williams was wounded and evacuated.

In spite of the fierce resistance met in this sector combat elements of CCB were occupying the high ground around Bourg Blanc, overlooking Brest, by midafternoon. After at least a dozen skirmishes of varying degrees of intensity on all sides, we gradually began to realize that we had driven right into the middle of the German army and to all intents and purposes we were surrounded. The tanks and TD's kept racing around hitting here and there, out-maneuvering and out-shooting the Germans until they had to back away from us. When things quieted down the Team went into rendezvous south of Bourg Blanc. The 174th F.A. Bn. position was one mile east of Milizac. The night that followed was a sleepless one, but mostly because the Krauts did not know where we were; they kept stumbling into our area all night and getting themselves captured in the process.

CCB had completed a march of 205 miles in six days through territory held by enemy troops in numbers far superior to the strength of the Team. We had successfully destroyed or bypassed all resistance, and had done so with comparatively light losses. The lightning-like stabs of the reconnaissance elements and the tank forces of the Team, aided by rapid and accurate artillery, had kept the enemy so off balance that they were unable to organize any effective resistance or tell in which direction the Team would strike next. Our Battalion completed the entire march without losing a tank or a truck and no fatalities since leaving Avranches.

With the city of Brest in sight the Combat Command commander decided

to wait for CCA to arrive before attacking the city. Meanwhile he directed the efforts of his command in wiping out pockets of resistance outside the city. The infantry took up positions around the town of Gouesnou and all artillery took up positions to support the infantry. The tanks and reconnaissance units were employed as flank and rear protection to the main position. The Combat Command was badly handicapped at this time by a lack of observation planes. One at a time these planes were lost to enemy fire or to crackups on the poor flying strips that were available among the hedgerows. The Germans had a nasty habit of shooting 88's and 105's at the planes every time they took off, and their fire was pretty accurate. As soon as a plane got 200 feet off the ground it came under AA fire. By 8 August we had only one plane left in the entire Combat Command.

During the night of 8-9 August, in order to better our field of fire, the Battalion moved to positions near Ormeau (about two miles northeast of Gouesnou) and arrived just after the Jerries had laid a heavy artillery concentration on an armored infantry battalion which had just come up with the leading elements of CCA. The artillery concentration had been very accurate and destructive, and the infantry had suffered severe losses. The left flank of our position was held by Company B, 603 TD Bn., and they, too, had been badly mauled by the German artillery.

During the night the 174th F.A. Bn. was detached from CCB and attached to CCA who were just arriving in the vicinity. Because of the lack of communications between units CCA was unaware of this transfer. CCB had issued the order transferring the Battalion and were under the impression that contact had been made by the Battalion with CCA, and that the Battalion was receiving orders

from them. At 0600 hours the entire division began moving north away from Brest to a quieter sector near Plouvien so that the Combat Commands could be reorganized and that CCB could leave the Brest area and move to attack Lorient. The Battalion, upon trying to contact the TD's on our flank and the infantry to the front, was somewhat surprised to find that they had pulled out and left us holding the front line in this area. 1st Lt. Eugene V. Poe finally made contact with CCA at about 0800 hours, but since they still did not know we had been attached to the unit they had no orders for us. The Battalion CO did not feel that it was a good idea for us to remain in our present position with all the rest of the division pulling back, so without waiting for further orders we "high-tailed" back up the road in pursuit of the column and without further mishap finally contacted it at Plabennec. Between Plabennec and Plouvien the Battalion was held up by enemy action to the northwest of Plouvien, and again without waiting for orders the Battalion pulled off the road and went into position. Major Snyder directed this occupation from the top of the cab of the wrecker where he jumped up and down hollering, "Get those damn guns into position!"

Capt. Harold I. Huggins set up an OP about 50 yards in front of the guns and began blasting Jerries at a range of 3,200 yards. A German column was moving south into Plouvien with the mission of relieving Brest, and the 6th Armored Division was moving northwest into Plouvien to reorganize. As these two columns met a heavy battle began. The Division called for air support and in a few minutes several P51's arrived on the scene and began strafing the German column. The Germans took cover in the houses along the road but Captain Huggins spotted them and directed

the fire on the houses, driving the enemy back into the open. For about an hour a kind of round-robin game was played by our Battalion and the air corps. The planes would run the Germans into the houses and the Battalion would chase them out again. The game continued until we ran out of Germans. Following is an account of this engagement as it appeared in *Time* magazine, 28 August, 1944:

Until last week Plouvein was just another of the quaint, peaceful villages that dot the Breton peninsula -- a set pattern of small tidy houses, large untidy barns and barnyards, a few shops, a church at the crossroads. Even their names -- Plouescat, Plougouven, Ploudaniel, - bear the patina of time: *plou* is the ancient Celtic prefix for "parish."

Plouvien had been left behind by U. S. tank columns bearing south to the siege of Brest, ten miles away. By the time their vanguard had passed, Plouvien's 2,500 citizens had decked their cottages with the tricolor and with homemade U. S. flags. The men came in from the fields to celebrate liberation.

But the Americans had also left behind them a unit of 1,500 Germans. Soon these were probing through to the village again. Flag-decked Plouvien maddened the German commander. He sent shells screeching into the crowded streets. The *Plouviennols* left their dead and wounded in the rubble, streamed into their few air-raid tunnels. Then the Germans drove into the village, looted the shell-torn homes and shops of wine.

Besotted soldiers went to the shelter openings, called on the men to come out. There was a burst of machine-gun fire as each emerged -- the parish priest, village officials, farmers, townsmen, 23 men in all. Women and children, cowering in the tunnels, were not molested (but one infant was killed by a fire bomb tossed into the shelter).

Vengeance came swiftly for Plouvien. U. S. troops caught the Germans in the town, trapped them as they fled afoot and in horse-drawn vehicles, raked them with shells. Of the 1,500 Germans who had marched into Plouvien only 700 marched out again. They were prisoners.

While we were still in position we received word that 1,000 Germans were coming through in a column in an attempt to break through to Brest. "C" Battery was trained on the road they were expected to use, but our fire was not needed. The

enemy broke up into small units and made their break down a small secondary road that ran through the bivouac of an engineer company. Three vehicles every fifteen minutes made the run. The engineers trained an infantry AT gun on the road, and when the vehicles came through the gun knocked out the leading vehicle. The two following it were smothered with small arms fire, and after the occupants surrendered, were driven into a field beside the road. Then the engineers got set for the next batch. When the whole train had run in, the engineers found they had killed over 300 Germans and captured nearly 700. The engineer company had a total strength of 145 men and officers and had suffered 1 man killed and 7 wounded. This road was littered with wrecked vehicles and the French carried loot away from the area for weeks.

When the situation cleared up the Battalion moved on to an area about one mile west of Plouvien, and on the way we got a good look at our targets of the afternoon. We had been firing on two large supply trains, and from the number of wrecked vehicles, dead horses, dead Jerries and destroyed equipment scattered around it is thought that very few of the enemy escaped.

Later in the afternoon American bombers attacked Brest, and we were given a chance to see why Brest was called one of the most heavily defended cities on the coast. It cannot properly be said that flak "dotted" the sky; flak literally smeared the sky! We began to understand what the air force meant when they said: "The flak was thick enough for a cat to walk on." Two of our planes were knocked down but the others blasted hell out of the city and left fires that burned all night. That night straggling bands of Germans were still endeavoring to slip past our lines and into Brest. Near 0200 hours about

20 enemy soldiers skirted our perimeter under the observation of our guards, who instead of firing on them with their carbines let them walk into a MG nest of the 25th Engineers, which promptly mowed down or captured the whole band.

The next morning Pvt. Olin A. Sturgis, "C" Battery, was shot in the back by a sniper and evacuated after receiving first aid. During the day the entire Division was subjected to artillery fire from all directions, but very little damage was done. T/5 Lester J. Kelley, of Headquarters Battery, received a bad scare. As he was leaning against the side of the house a gun fired near him and shook the roofing tiles down all around him. He thought he had been hit, but no damage was done that the laundry couldn't take care of.

On 10 August, reorganization was completed, and CCA was ordered to resume the defensive positions that had been evacuated the day before. At 2000 hours the Battalion moved into position about one-half mile east of Plabennec with the mission of supporting the fires of the 83rd Armored F.A. Bn. CCA was now composed of two battalions of armored infantry, the 83rd F.A. Bn., and the 174th F.A. Bn. CCB was to remain at Brest for a couple of days to give a show of strength and then to slip quietly away to attack Lorient.

During the night Pfc. You Lee and Ralph C. Fiore of Headquarters Battery captured a couple of Germans while on guard post, and Pfc. Fiore had to let Pfc. Lee have the P38 they took off one of them to keep Lee from shooting the other German for not having one. Thus Lee became the first enlisted man to own a P38.

It was in this position that Major H. P. Snyder picked himself a safe place to sleep between a stone house and a hedgerow. It would have been practically impossible for the Germans to hit him in such a secure spot,

but "C" Battery got him out on the first round. He was sleeping soundly for the first time in several days when "C" opened up. The concussion of the constant firing in the area had loosened the roof tiles of the house and the blast so near at hand was all that was needed to send them cascading down upon his "impregnable" position. He crawled out from under, combing tiles out of his hair, pulling timbers from down his neck, and cussing the Heinies for shooting so close.

On 11 August, the first load of rations that weren't all "C's" or "K's" came through. Every man got a pork chop and $\frac{1}{4}$ loaf of bread, and felt he was having a regular feast after his diet of dog biscuits and canned rations, supplemented by green potatoes when we could get them.

A cub plane was pieced together from the parts left over from our wrecks, and Lieutenant Donald D. McNitt volunteered to act as observer after someone was found who could pilot the plane. After a short flight, during which 88s and 105's exploded under, over, and on both sides of the plane, the occupants decided that a good place for it was on the ground.

Capt. James W. Powers had been acting as liaison officer with the 6th Armored Division Artillery during the march and the siege of Brest, and because of his liaison duties had not done any firing. About 1430 hours, as he and his driver, T/4 Howard Hodge, were lying indolently around the division artillery CP, a lieutenant from the reconnaissance squadron came to the artillery CP and reported that some AAA batteries had been spotted and requested an observer be sent up to put artillery fire on them. As no observer was available, Captain Powers volunteered to occupy the OP himself. After travelling along back trails for several miles, he arrived at the reconnaissance CP only to find, much to his surprise, that the OP was

still some distance forward and that he would have to be guided there by an FFI patrol. The patrol consisted of Captain Powers, T/4 Hodge, a lieutenant of the French paratroops, FFI, a French civilian, nine former French infantrymen, and two Senegalese French colonials.

T/4 Hodge removed the radio from the jeep and the well armed patrol moved out.

After a cross-country hike of about two miles the OP was established along the east-west road one mile west of Gouesnou. The 609 radio worked perfectly, to everybody's astonishment, and one battery was taken under fire with the "fire for effect" bracketing the position. As Captain Powers started to shift the fire to another target, one of the FFI gave a signal to be quiet. A German patrol was approaching. The radio was turned off and everyone held his breath while a patrol of 15 Germans passed down the highway in front of the OP about three yards away. When the danger of discovery had passed, the radio was turned on again and firing resumed. After leisurely blasting all the targets in sight, Captain Powers, during a lull, asked the location of the front lines. The French lieutenant informed him that the front lines were about 1,500 yards to his rear, and then probably wondered why the OP was vacated so suddenly! The party returned to the reconnaissance CP safely -- and rapidly. T/4 Hodge displayed real guts in operating his radio calmly and efficiently on this hazardous mission.

Capt. Francis Stewart, BC of "A" Battery, was ordered to establish a battalion OP in the vicinity of Gouesnou and left the battalion area at about 1700 hours with his driver, T/5 Martin J. Pendrotti, and radio operator, T/4 James L. Penley. They found Gouesnou deserted, and turned left on the east-west highway and travelled toward Guipavas searching

for high ground on which to establish an OP. About 1½ miles outside the town they came to a roadblock, where they halted and dismounted to investigate. A Jerry jumped out on the road about three hundred yards away, and Captain Stewart knocked him down with a shot from his carbine. A 20 mm. AA-AT gun opened up on their flank at a range of about 50 yards, and other Germans fired on them with small arms. Captain Stewart and T/5 Pendrotti returned the fire while T/4 Penley attempted to turn the jeep around. When T/4 Penley was hit in the head by a round and lost consciousness, T/5 Pendrotti jumped in the jeep and turned it around. Although hit in several places, Captain Stewart was able to get back in the vehicle, and T/5 Pendrotti took off down the road. The next shot got him through the left shoulder, and the vehicle itself was riddled by bursts from the 20 mm. as long as it remained in sight. T/5 Pendrotti, though severely wounded, drove several miles until, fainting from loss of blood, he gave up the wheel to Penley, who had just regained consciousness. T/4 Penley drove to the aid station of the 83rd Armored F.A. Bn. where first aid was rendered. All three were evacuated to the hospital, and Captain Stewart was later returned to the States.

In order to protect our lightly held lines it was necessary to get observation, and as ground OP's were hard to hold because of the small number of friendly troops, it was decided to risk using the cub again. Lt. Donald D. McNitt took off again on 12 August, and since many of the AA guns had been silenced in the last couple of days, he had very little trouble from that source. After firing for some time at various ground targets, he spotted a ship moving around in the harbor and put fire on it. After chasing it all over the harbor with 18

rounds of HE, he reported several target hits. The Battalion continued aggressively to seek ground observation, and by the afternoon of 12 August had two OP's established and wire laid to them. Lt. William D. Reimann was practically blown out of one of them once, but they were good OP's and destructive fire was observed from both.

At 0100 hours, 13 August, "C" Battery motor park was shelled with 105's and received several close misses. As our positions were accurately located by the enemy, we moved to our alternate position just south of Plabennec early in the morning. During the day fire was continued on targets in and near Brest. Capt. Blaise S. Jackewicz returned to the Battalion after hitchhiking all over Brittany trying to find the outfit; no one seemed to know exactly where it was. He had been in the Battle of St. Malo with the VIII Corps and had caught a ride from there to Brest on a ration truck. He was given command of "A" Battery, and 1st Lt. Philip H. Bagwell was given command of "C" Battery.

Later in the day, CCB pulled out for Lorient and left CCA, consisting of two battalions of infantry and two battalions of artillery, to "contain" Brest. The Stars and Stripes came out with a map showing us containing Brest with a tight circle around the city; actually we were the ones being contained. We had taken up defensive positions in the triangle formed by Gouesnou, Guipavas, and Plabennec (an area about seven miles long on each side) and were fighting desperately to keep the Germans out. The FFI gave us invaluable assistance here. They were not very well organized, but they protected our flanks and rear by reporting the movements of German troops in these areas. Yank magazine came out later calling the force in this position "Brassiere Boys" because we "contained

Brest"! Our elastic was getting pretty well worn, too, by the time help arrived; rations, gas, and ammunition got extremely low at times. Shooting all day and standing guard all night were not exactly conducive to much "uplift," either.

On 14 August, T/4 James L. Penley returned to duty from the hospital and 1st Sgt. Samuel D. Jones, "A" Battery, was evacuated for disability.

While "B" Battery was moving to an alternate position, Sgt. Charles A. Corder's gun threw a track. The Battalion wrecker with T/4 Charles Le-Jambre, T/4 Kieran G. Rigney, and T/4 Peter N. Nickologanous came in to help T/4 Howard W. Grimmer, the motor sergeant, and the gun crew fix the track. Just as the Battery cleared the position a heavy concentration of enemy fire came in. No actual check was made of the time it took to fix the track, but everyone agrees that it was fixed before the dust cleared.

At 1600 hours, on 17 August, the Battalion moved to positions about three miles southeast of Plabennec. As the situation had become a little more stable by this time, everyone who could be spared tried to get a bath in a nearby creek. We were all filthy from the long march and hard fighting. Unknowingly, the "wash-hole" we selected was one used by the local French women to wash their clothes, and several of the men were plenty embarrassed when some woman would interrupt their bath with a cheery "Bon jour, Monsieur," and then throw her laundry in the creek and start beating it with paddles. A cigarette or two would get your laundry done. Those paddles got the clothes clean, but they were never themselves again.

At 1630 hours, 18 August, the second section of "C" Battery had a muzzle burst and Cpl. Albert W. Adams was nicked with a shell fragment. After receiving first aid for

this second wound he was returned to the Battery for duty.

On 19 August, Lts. L. T. Gray and George G. Lorentz returned to the Battalion with their planes, and at last we had air observation that we could depend on again. A liaison officer from VIII Corps also arrived that day and we learned that St. Malo had fallen and that the entire Corps was on its way to reinforce the attack on Brest. He told us that he had read in the *Stars and Stripes* how we had the peninsula cleaned out, and was stupified when we informed him that he had ridden right through the German lines to reach us!

Reinforcements began to arrive on 20 August in the form of the 2d Infantry Division, who had made a forced march from St. Malo, with the infantry being shuttled by the artillery trucks. Chit-chat and insults were bandied back and forth as they marched by and the stories grew more and more fantastic. T/4 Michael Ukrainiec, however, provided the all-time climax with his inquiry: "What's been keeping you? We've been wait-



*A fellow can't have no privacy,
nohow.*

ing on you here since D-Day!"

New units continued to pour in for the main assault on Brest, and on 21 August the Battalion was detached from the 6th Armored Division and attached to our old friends, the 196th F.A. Group, VIII Corps, in general support of the 8th Infantry Division.

During the period from 1 to 20 August, while attached to the 6th Armored Division, the 174th F.A. Bn. rendered invaluable service to the Division in its march through Brittany, and gained the respect of the whole Division by the fighting qualities it displayed both on the march and at Brest. While T/5 Pendrotti was convalescing, General Grow visited the hospital and asked him what outfit he belonged to. "The Fighting 174th," answered Pendrotti. "You're damn right it's the Fighting 174th," replied the general. "That's the fightingest bunch of artillerymen I've ever seen."

During this period the Battalion fired 1,879 rounds on targets ranging from Krauts milking cows to transport ships. A tabulation of the type and number of missions fired during this period is as follows: 26 enemy batteries, 17 harassing missions, 46 infantry targets, 16 interdiction missions, 9 serenades, 2 strong points, 19 counter-flak missions, 2 enemy ships, 14 buildings, 2 enemy headquarters, 11 defensive fires, 2 ammunition dumps, 1 preparation and support mission, 1 supply dump, 1 motor park, 1 enemy CP, 2 enemy OP's, 1 Nebelwerfer battery, 8 high-burst registrations, 4 check point registrations, and 1 base point registration.

The Battalion received high compliments from commanders in the 6th Armored Division. General Grow, Commanding General, 6th Armored Division, praised the Battalion very highly for the support rendered his Division. General Taylor, Commanding General CCB, complimented the

Battalion for its aggressiveness in laying and servicing wire. In an official commendation, the Commanding General, 6th Armored Division, stated:

During the period the 174th F.A. Bn., 155 mm SP Gun, was attached to the 6th Armored Division, the Battalion under the command of Lt. Col. Marshall A. Langley, functioned in a superior manner. The unit moved rapidly into position, and its firepower was quick, efficient, and accurate. Throughout the entire action at Brest, the ingenuity and resourcefulness of the staff officers and the aggressiveness of the other officers in seeking observation resulted in the destruction of many installations. The leadership of all officers was superior, and response and cooperation of the enlisted personnel spontaneous. I commend the officers and men of the Battalion for their excellent service and extend best wishes for their success.

Signed: R. W. GROW
Maj. Gen., U. S. Army
Commanding

On 21 August the corps commander organized the forces for a major assault on Brest. The plan of attack placed the 29th Inf. Div. on the right, the 2nd Inf. Div. on the left, and the 8th Inf. Div. in the center. The 174th F.A. Bn., attached to the 196th F.A. Group, was given the mission of general support of the 8th Division. The Battalion thereupon moved one mile east of Bourg-Blanc, where it occupied positions. T/5 Martin I. Pendrotti returned to duty on this date.

The Corps moved deliberately about its mission, the destruction of the Fortress of Brest. The commanding general called for air support, and medium bombers, fighter bombers, and rocket-firing fighters came over in clouds. Hundreds of tons of bombs were dropped within the fortress; thousands of artillery shells were fired into the city. By day the planes came, and at night the artillery thundered and roared. The earth shook with the vibration of countless explosions. Eyes were bleary from lack of sleep, heads ached, and ears rang from the concussion of our own

artillery. Day by day the response of the German guns grew weaker and weaker, and day by day the sounds of our own guns grew louder as new units continued to move in. Artillery moved in until there was almost no place to put it. The long-range artillery had to move farther and farther back to make room for guns with a shorter range. We were all impressed with the difference in our situation now that we numbered 10,000 instead of the 3,000 with which we had "contained" Brest. And still the constant hammering went on.

On the afternoon of 25 August the Battalion was ordered to take one gun forward and by direct fire methods to knock an enemy OP out of the church steeple in Lambezellec. The assignment was given to "A" Battery, and at 1830 hours Capt. Blaise S. Jackewicz took the second section forward to within 3,000 yards of the target and fired 40 rounds with reasonable success. Poor observation because of dust and the fall of darkness made it necessary to withdraw before the mission was completely accomplished, however.

Capt. James W. Powers and Cpl John P. Watkins of Headquarters Battery pushed out into the front lines on 26 August to establish an OP well forward in preparation for an attack that was to start at 1200 hours. They selected a house on Hill 81 near Gouesnou as a possible OP, and proceeded to worm their way forward to occupy it. After investigating the possibilities, Captain Powers sent Corporal Watkins back to bring up the wire truck. After a wait of about thirty minutes, Captain Powers came out of the house to see if he could see the wire truck returning. When he didn't see it, he turned to reenter the house, but just as he put his hand on the doorknob along came a mortar shell and blew the whole house out of his hand. Captain Powers hurriedly severed relations with that spot

and took off back up the road at a speed somewhat in excess of "on the double." Corporal Watkins, who was returning with the truck and Cpl. Franklin L. Wilson and Pfc. Donald W. Carter, saw the house go up in smoke, and dashed through a deluge of mortar shells to the rescue of Captain Powers, whom they met panting up the road. A quick maneuver or two, a decisive shove on the accelerator, and the weapons carrier was off to a safer spot.

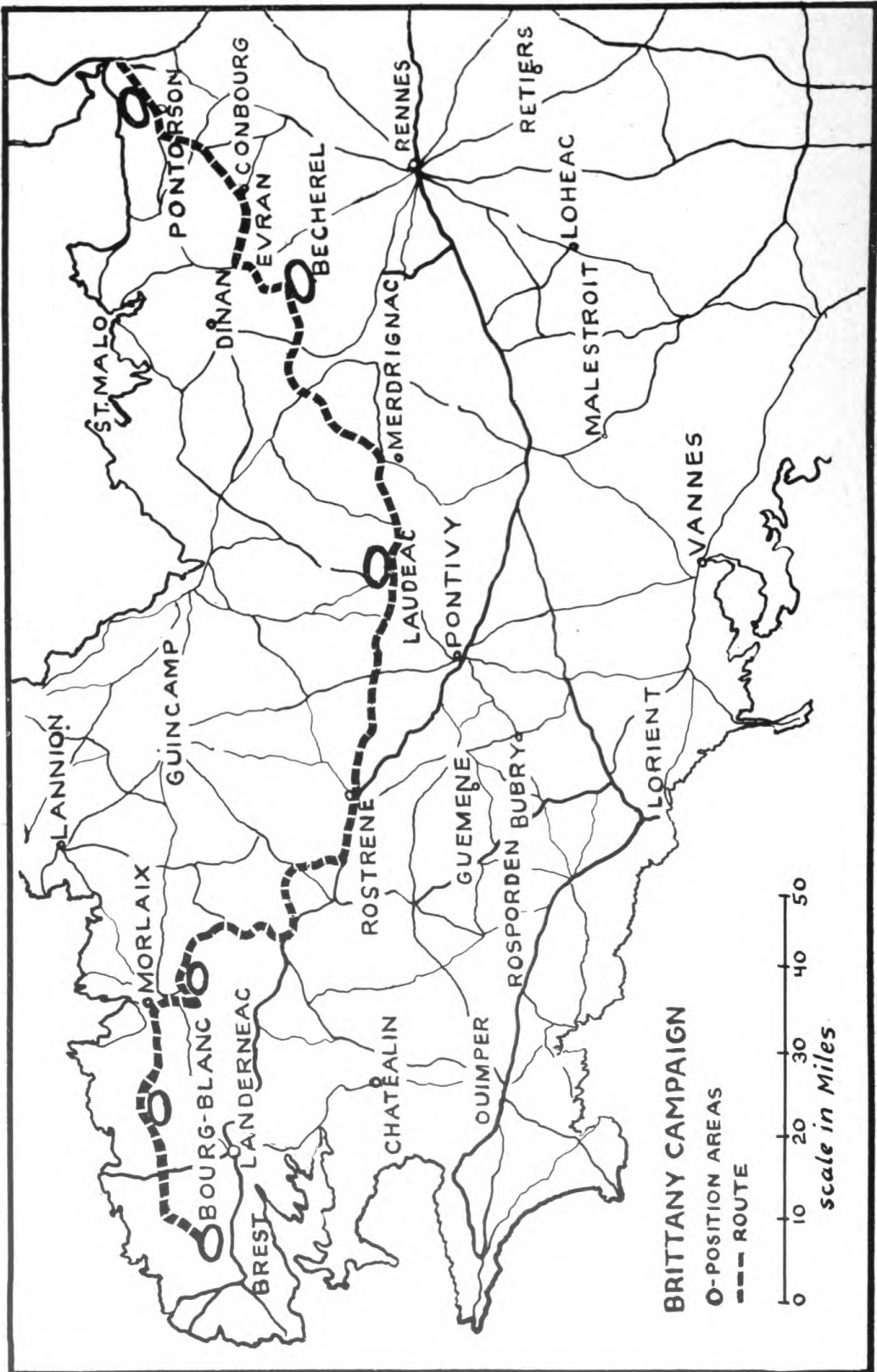
On 27 August the OP was established on Hill 81, but since it was the only likely OP in that sector, and as TD's were firing from it, the Jerries made up their minds to make a mole hill out of the mountain. The wire was cut several times by rounds that were slightly over, but things were not too bad. Then suddenly a shell landed right in the center of the OP, and all personnel hit for their foxholes. The first round was followed by approximately thirty more, and the OP personnel kept on scratching a little deeper. No one was injured in this concentration, but the wire was cut to within five feet of the telephone, and one shell had landed only three feet from the foxhole where Sgt. Roy Hendricks and Pvt. Cecil E. Harmon had taken cover. Both were covered with about six inches of dirt and Harmon's ears were ringing so persistently that he thought he was a "Good Humour" man.

On 31 August the Battalion was ordered to take one gun across the Landerneau River onto the Daoulas Peninsula for direct fire on some enemy fortifications. Battery "C" was assigned this daring mission, and after careful reconnaissance the gun was moved by way of Landerneau to a position near Plougaste. The second section was chosen to do the firing. It consisted of: Sgt. E. G. Stovall, section chief, Cpl. L. C. Foster, gunner, Cpl. W. G. Majetich, Pfc.'s L. B. Flannigan, and R. P. Lynch, Privates

George Borkowski, Ira L. Firl, all cannoneers, T/4 C. E. Tonnemacher, and T/5 V. L. Linn, drivers, Sgt. G. W. Rutherford and Pfc. E. Q. Macon, ammunition section. Lt. Philip H. Bagwell, the BC, and Lt. Marion C. Cartledge, executive, moved the gun into position at about 1430 hours and quickly fired 33 rounds at targets ranging approximately 2,000 yards. The targets consisted of enemy fortifications and gun emplacements. Several target hits were reported and several fires started. With the "sneak" firing completed, the gun was quickly pulled out of position and headed back toward the Battalion. Immediately the Jerries retaliated with heavy counter-battery fire on the position that had been occupied, but the bird had flown. Col. Edward R. Roberts, the Group CO, was present during the mission and highly praised "C" Battery personnel for the speed and accuracy with

which the mission had been accomplished.

During the period of 21-31 August, the Battalion remained in the positions occupied one mile east of Bourg-Blanc. Observation was pushed well forward at all times, and the Battalion fired 1,112 rounds on 145 targets, as follows: 135 enemy batteries, 17 harassing missions, 47 infantry targets, 15 serenades, 4 preparation and support missions, 12 strong points, 13 counter-flak missions, 11 defensive missions, 2 enemy ships, 15 buildings, 2 enemy headquarters, 5 ammunition dumps, 1 supply dump, 1 motor park, 2 enemy CP's, 5 enemy OP's, 4 Nebelwerfer batteries, 1 MG position, 9 highburst registrations, 7 check point registrations, 16 interdiction missions, and 1 base point registration. This gave us a total of 325 concentrations. During the month of August, the Battalion expended a total of 2,991 rounds of ammunition.



THE FALL OF BREST

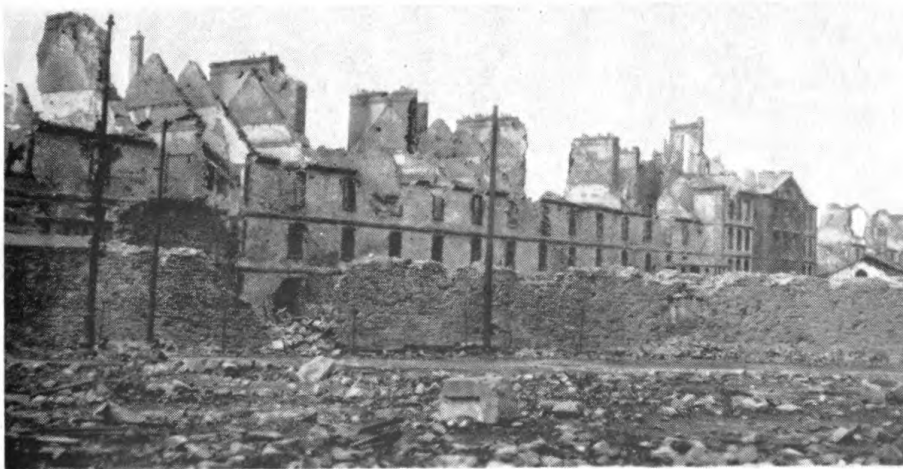
1 September, 1944 - 30 September, 1944

THE direct fire mission from the Daoulas Peninsula, which was undertaken by Battery "C" on 26 August, was so successful that higher Headquarters ordered another mission of the same type. In order to give all batteries an opportunity to fire this type of mission, Lt. Col. M. A. Langley decided this time to use "B" Battery. The men included in the active unit were as follows: Capt. Willie L. Scott, battery commander, "B" Battery, his driver, Cpl. Russell F. Meese, gun mechanic, T/4 W. A. Roehl, telephone operators, Cpl. J. G. Coe and T/5 C. E. Sumrall; the Fifth Section personnel, consisting of Sgt. P. D. Earrey and Pfc. E. F. Stuckey; and the Second Section consisting of Sgt. R. W. Sudbrink, T/4 R. L. Naderer, Cpl. J. R. Waldron, Cpl. P. J. Gula, Pfc. R. A. Koski, Pfc. L. T. Skeen, Pvt. F. H. Andrud, Pvt. Leo Panighetti, Pvt. Howard Julian, Pvt. L. A. Ritter, and Pvt. D. K. Kimmel. On the first day of September, at 0900 hours, this outfit arrived at a rendezvous area on

the northwestern part of the Daoulas Peninsula, selected a gun position, sneaked in, and at 1426 hours opened fire on an enemy gun emplacement in Brest at a range of 5,100 yards.

The German gun was in an underground emplacement and enemy personnel could be seen moving about the position. This gun was thought to be an AAA gun since it had been seen to fire five rounds in thirty seconds at 1328 hours, but the caliber could not be determined. The OP was selected in the vicinity of the gun, and Captain Scott was able to give all commands by voice. Thirteen rounds were fired on this target and all except one was a target hit or hits within twenty yards of the target. Counter-battery then forced the gun to move to an alternate position. The next target selected was a three-story hotel the Germans were using as an OP. The range was 3,800 yards. After rapidly firing ten rounds, eight of which were target hits and which started a fire, the gun was with-

*"Thou shalt return to thy home to find barren walls."
Evidence of the beating Brest had taken, September, 1944.*



drawn and returned to the Battery position. Poor visibility prevented the firing of direct fire missions from 2 to 4 September, but the Battalion continued its primary mission of general support of the 8th Inf. Div.

After firing 1,619 rounds from the position occupied on 21 August, the Battalion moved to another position, which was two miles southwest of Bourg-Blanc and about 500 yards south of the positions we had occupied on the night of 7 August, when we first arrived in the Brest area. On 5 September, 1944, per letter of the Twelfth Army Group, dated 5 September, 1944, the 174th F.A. Bn. was detached from the First U. S. Army, assigned to the Ninth U. S. Army, and attached to 196 F.A. Group, VIII Corps.

Orders were received to send one firing battery to the 2nd Inf. Div., which was on the eastern outskirts of Brest, to be employed on whatever direct fire missions the Division might think necessary. Battery "A" was selected for this assignment and moved into rendezvous about 1½ miles north of Guipavas during the morning of 6 September. Lieutenant Colonel Langley, Captain Jackewicz, battery commander of "A" Battery, and Lieutenant Markham, reconnaissance officer, of "A" Battery, reported to the commanding officer, 38th F.A. Bn., 2nd Inf. Div. Artillery, for instructions. They were taken to the 38th F.A. Bn. OP on Hill 105, two miles southeast of Guipavas where Captain Galbreath, liaison officer, 38th F.A. Bn. pointed out some enemy gun emplacements on Hill 90, about 800 yards to the south which were holding up our infantry. Captain Jackewicz was instructed to attempt to knock out these targets.

A gun position was selected on Hill 105 with the OP near enough so that fire could be directed by voice. Precision fire employing one gun was to be used, and the Fourth Section

of Battery "A" was chosen for the mission. This Section comprised Sgt. D. H. Price, Cpl. N. E. Dingler, Cpl. O. W. Cawley, Pfc. A. F. Braulke, Pfc. Grover Laymon, Jr., Pfc. Paul Angrisano (who had returned to duty the previous day after being wounded at Avranches), Pvt. A. F. Stevens, Pvt. I. W. Akers, Pvt. J. R. Loveless, T/4 M. L. Lloyd, and T/5 Emery Taylor. Hill 90 was practically covered with dugouts, gun emplacements, pillboxes, and blockhouses, and was considered to be one of the most impregnable positions defending Brest. The Section began firing at 1230 hours and expended 74 rounds at ranges varying from 800 to 1,200 yards. The fire resulted in the destruction of one house, three dugouts, three blockhouses, two guns, and damage to two other houses. An ammunition dump was hit and set on fire and two Germans came out with a white flag. Fire was resumed after the Germans reached our front lines and surrendered, and a direct hit on a 20mm. flak gun blew the gun to pieces and its gunners fifty feet into the air. Our position was then vacated before counter-battery fire could be directed on the gun.

A gigantic air attack was made on Brest at dawn on 6 September, and it continued with unabated fury throughout the day, with medium bombers, fighter bombers, and rocket-carrying fighters participating. Everyone was pretty happy about the pasting the Jerries were getting and were complimenting the air corps extravagantly for the good job they were doing until chow time that afternoon. Just as everyone was contentedly engaged in "bending the elbow" and "fighting the beans" an eerie, rushing scream rent the air and ruined all appetites. Investigation revealed that one of the P47's maneuvering so gracefully overhead had definitely SNAFU'd, and had either accidentally shook off or cut loose a mere 500-

pound bomb that fell directly in the center of Service Battery's area. The bomb struck in the top of a hedge row about 10 yards from the Battalion Maintenance Section and about 100 yards from the Battalion parts truck, where T/5 Antoine Kouri was lapping up his chow. Fortunately the bomb did not explode, for if had it would have certainly thrown dirt in T/5 Kouri's "C" rations. When the Bomb Disposal Squad arrived it found that in order to remove the bomb it would be necessary to dig a hole about ten feet deep. As it was getting dark the BDS decided to come back next day to complete their work. Needless to say, no one slept in the Maintenance Section's trucks that night!

1st Lt. Floyd G. Fountain and Pvt. Clarence M. Peterson joined the Battalion as replacements, Lieutenant Fountain being assigned to Battery "C" and Private Peterson to Battery "A". Capt. Harold I. Huggins, Battalion Assistant S-3 was temporarily attached to Battery "A" to act as a liaison officer while the Battery was working under the 2nd Inf. Div.

On 7 September, the 2nd Inf. Div. assigned "A" Battery the mission of firing on gun emplacements located on Hill 100 and on suspected targets on Hill 90. The Second Section was selected for the mission. It consisted of S/Sgt. S. A. Rolando, Cpl. Charles P. Griffith, Pfc. George Isaac, Cpl. Roland Borchart, Pfc. Cyril M. Foote, Pfc. E. L. Bleiweiss, Pfc. Harry R. Clark, Pvt. G. S. Sherland, Pvt. R. H. Novotni, Pvt. A. A. Brooks, T/4 E. J. Bailey and T/5 Clifford J. Duffy. The gun position selected was in the vicinity of that used on 6 September, and 60 rounds were expended, resulting in the destruction of five dugouts, two houses, and the neutralization of two enemy guns.

A full scale Corps attack was scheduled for 8 September, and, as the ammunition allowance for artillery was increased for the preparation for

the attack, Captain Jackewicz decided to use two OP's and two guns on his next mission. Captain Jackewicz and Lieutenant Markham manned one OP and directed the first of the First Section, which consisted of Sgt. Edgar Greenfield, Cpl. Russell M. Curry, Cpl. John Mauk, Pfc. J. J. Wells, Pfc. H. M. Callaly, Pfc. S. W. Callison, Pvt. M. A. Basciano, Pvt. G. R. Roberts, Pvt. John Cheronka, T/4 R. C. Forbus, Jr., and T/5 H. B. Boswell. Capt. H. I. Huggins and 1st Lt. Joseph J. Donegan manned the other OP and directed the fire of the Third Section, which consisted of T/4 E. C. Keith, Cpl. M. L. Howland, Cpl. R. J. Manske, Pfc. V. M. Adams, Pfc. H. A. Helin, Pvt. J. F. Casiglia, Pvt. T. F. Kennedy, Pvt. E. O. Mills, Pvt. C. M. Peterson, Pvt. J. L. Gillin, T/4 Marvin R. Smith, and T/5 L. A. Henne. Lt. D. D. McNitt was placed in charge of the ammunition sections. The gun positions were on the forward slope of Hill 105 and had no cover. The range to the targets was about 800 yards. Targets fired on were enemy gun emplacements, concrete dugouts, and enemy OP's.

Firing began at 1000 hours and immediately drew counter-battery from enemy mortars in the vicinity of the targets. Firing continued in spite of the enemy's efforts to smother the gun position with fire, and our cannoneers simply ducked into their fox-holes whenever the rounds got too close. While Captain Jackewicz was firing on the designated targets, Lieutenant Markham kept searching for the mortars which were harassing the gun crews. When the mortars were finally located, Lieutenant Markham took them under fire and with a couple of rounds assisted the "supermen" in their avowed intention of "dying for the Fuehrer." The mortar ammunition dump was also set on fire by the same rounds that knocked out the mortars, and no more trouble was had from that sector. During the

day the First Section expended 120 rounds and the Third Section expended 80 rounds. The total bag for the day and for the 200 rounds expended was: ten dugouts knocked out, four guns destroyed, four blockhouses smashed, four buildings blown down, and one mortar completely disintegrated. At one time it became necessary to suspend firing to permit five German medics with a Red Cross Flag and a stretcher to clear the area of the wounded.

The mission assigned to Battery "A" on 9 September was to fire on Hill 100 from Hill 90 as soon as Hill 90 was captured. While moving forward on reconnaissance for position, Captain Jackewicz learned that Hill 90 had been taken without a casualty and that our infantry had advanced to the base of Hill 100 which prevented firing on that point. The capture of Hill 90 gave us a chance to look at the damage we had done on the previous day, and it was plenty. Four 105mm flak guns, emplaced in steel-reinforced concrete emplacements with walls six feet thick, had been destroyed and several 20mm

guns were blown up. The entire hill had been a network of trenches, dugouts, gun emplacements, and personnel shelters. All that remained of what had been considered an impregnable strong point were broken and twisted guns, smoldering equipment, caved-in tunnels and dugouts, and dead Germans. The infantry regimental commander was very generous in his praise of the firing done by "A" Battery. He gave full credit for the feat of being able to take the most fortified position he had ever seen without a single casualty to the devastating fire laid on the hill by our guns.

During the period from 1 to 9 September, the firing batteries not engaged in doing direct fire continued their mission of general support of the 8th Inf. Div. At 1400 hours, 9 September, Captain Powers and Captain Eagwell were called to Headquarters, 8th Inf. Div., and given a direct fire mission for daylight of 10 September. They were to direct fire on the ancient walls of Fort Bougen.

The wall of Fort Bougen was the

A German 105 mm. A. A. Emplacement "slightly" immobilized. Photo shows effects of Battery "A" fire on Hill 90, Battle of Brest, September, 1944.



outer defense ring which surrounded the heart of the German positions in Brest. It contained many dug-in and armored gun emplacements capable of 360° traverse. The wall was built of earth and stone and in places was more than 30 feet thick. In front of the wall was a dry moat 20 feet deep and 30 feet wide. This fort had successfully protected the city of Brest from capture for hundreds of years and had never been taken by storm.

A position was selected 400 yards east of Lambezellec, and preparations were made to fire on the wall at day-break.

At 0700 hours on 10 September, one gun under Sgt. Harry C. Ducy and another under Sgt. Claude C. Ray, both of "C" Battery, opened fire simultaneously on the wall. Sergeant Ducy fired 65 rounds in 17 minutes. Sergeant Ray fired 35 rounds. The fire placed on the wall was principally for testing purposes, to ascertain its strength. And it was plenty strong! The rounds were scattered up and down the wall seeking a weak spot but none was found. Both guns completed their firing and returned to the Battery position without drawing counter-battery. Sergeant Ray had his hand injured by the recoil of the gun.

The Battalion was next assigned the mission of breaching the wall of Fort Bougen to permit the passage of infantry, tanks, and British "Crocodile" flamethrowers into the Fort. Battery "A" was assigned the east side of the fort and Battery "B" the northwest side. Battery "A" had great difficulties in finding a gun position that was not under direct observation and counter-battery from the Fort and did not fire on 10 September. Battery "B" was successful in finding a position on the ridge 400 yards east of Lambezellec with a target range of approximately 2,000 yards. The gun to fire was under direct control of the 8th Inf. Div. and it was necessary

to clear all fire missions through the infantry regiment in that sector. Captain Scott, BC "B" Battery, his driver, Cpl. R. F. Meese, telephone operator Pvt. Walton Hawk, and radio operator T/5 Lloyd E. Wahl, occupied the OP which was in the second story of a house near the gun position. Lt. Ralph W. Word, T/4 Walter A. Roehl, Cpl. J. G. Coe, and T/5 Stephen Richards established telephone communications between the gun and the OP and then moved the Fourth Section into position. This Section consisted of Sgt. Bruce J. Fleming, T/4 Amos H. Gerding, Cpl. Albert Urban, Cpl. R. E. Humphreys, Pfc. A. J. Fritz, Pfc. Nick J. Bissen, Pfc. G. C. Guyer, Pfc. J. V. Northington, Pvt. V. A. Lee, Pvt. E. H. Shepard, Pvt. M. C. Leewright, and Pvt. H. A. Metras. Major Gerald D. McGehee, Battalion S-3, was in charge of the operation and Captain Powers acted as his assistant.

After being in position for some time and not receiving clearance to fire, a gun was observed firing from the top of the wall directly into the infantry below it who were attempting to take the wall. Major McGehee, after failing to get a satisfactory answer to his request for clearance, left the OP for the infantry CP to attempt by personal contact to get the desired clearance. The gun on the wall continued to fire into the infantry at a high rate and was causing high casualties among the front line troops. All the cannoneers and officers at the gun position were itching to fire and felt they could knock the gun off with a few rounds. Captain Powers, feeling that it could be done without endangering the infantry half as much as the fire already falling among them, allowed himself to be easily persuaded to open fire without waiting for clearance. The first round was over, the second was over, the third was short by about three yards and the fourth was

a target hit. As the T-105 concrete piercing fuze was being used, the shell tore a gaping hole in the steel turret from which the gun was firing and blew the whole back end of the turret off, causing the whole gun to spin around in circles like a top. A few rounds of AP shell followed. The pill box on which the turret rested was completely destroyed and the ammunition of the gun set on fire.

Just as Major McGehee reached the infantry OP to request permission to fire, the round which destroyed the gun was fired. Major McGehee was told that he had no need to fire now as the target was knocked out, and was asked if his gun had done it. Major McGehee said his gun had not fired. Then the infantry commander remarked "Well, someone just knock the hell out of it with the most beautiful shot I've ever seen." Major McGehee returned to the gun position, found that we had fired, and sent Captain Powers to the infantry OP to explain why he had fired without clearance. The infantry commander was so pleased with the results that, instead of reprimanding Captain Powers for firing without clearance, all he could do was compliment the gun crew for its action. When the Fort was finally taken, the gun was found to be a 105mm. AA gun in a revolving turret. It had been completely destroyed by our fire and several dead Germans were plastered about the walls of the dugout from the concussion of our shells. Shortly after Major McGehee returned to the OP, the Germans put 20mm. fire in on the OP and several direct hits were made on the building. Spectators were standing around watching the firing, many of them of high rank, but when the 20mm. fire began coming in, that area was cleared, and quick! Corporal James G. Coe was wounded slightly by a 20mm. fragment, but remained at his post.

After the enemy fire had stopped, the OP was reoccupied and firing was begun in an attempt to breach the wall so that tanks and flame throwers could rush through the breach and take the fort. The Third Section was used for this firing. It consisted of Sgt. C. A. Corder, T/4 R. L. Goessens, Cpl. J. L. Stedman, Cpl. Alfred Klebba, T/5 J. L. Macy, Pfc. Arthur Dierolf, Pfc. H. P. Kilgore, Pfc. A. V. Johanson, Pfc. B. B. Estep, Pfc. L. O. Furford, Pvt. R. F. Hartin, Pvt. J. W. Behre, and Pvt. Wash A. Nolan. After firing on the wall for about one hour the gun became overheated and was replaced by the Fourth Section under Sergeant Fleming. After a few rounds had been fired, the position began to receive counter-battery from a heavy-caliber gun, probably a naval or coast defense gun. The first round was 100 over. March order was given, but before the gun could be moved another round came in and made almost a direct hit, bursting a few yards in front of our gun. The Section dispersed on foot except for Sergeant Fleming, T/4 Gerding, and Private Vernon A. Lee, who remained to bring the gun out of the danger area. T/4 Gerding spun the gun around, pulled out on the road, and just started to take off, when another round hit a house alongside the gun, ruptured the gun tube and wounded both him and Private Lee who was riding the gun. Sergeant Fleming helped T/4 Gerding out of the driver's compartment and assisted him to a place of comparative safety, and then dashed back through the falling shells to drive his gun out. T/4 Gerding and Private Lee were treated at the infantry aid station and sent to the hospital; Private Lee returned to duty the next day and Gerding on 14 September. Captain Powers was hit in the back by a fragment of shell which cut through his field jacket and shirt, but he was making such rapid tracks away from the scene that he was not injured.



*A close up view of tunnel entrance which the C.O. wanted "sealed."
This was a direct fire mission, Battery "C", September, 1944.*

Major McGehee vacated the OP quite rapidly, too, when the walls of the house were riddled by shell fragments, and the room he was in began to sound like a bee hive as the fragments buzzed past him.

Lt. E. V. Poe and Lt. K. E. Markham became "nervous in the service" the same day. They were acting as forward observers when they were pinned down by a heavy artillery concentration. Neither was injured but several rounds landed close enough to throw dirt in their eyes. Battery "C" remained in the Battalion position and fired observed and scheduled missions.

On 11 September, Battery "B" continued firing on the wall in an attempt to blast a hole through which the tanks could pass. Two OPs and guns were used. Captain H. I. Huggins, who had returned to the Battalion from "A" Battery, occupied one OP and directed the fire of the Second Section. Captain Scott occupied the other OP and directed the fire of the Third Section. The OP's were in about the same location as the day before but the guns were

moved about 300 yards to the rear in order to get them behind the crest of the ridge. The Second Section opened fire at 1530 hours and fired 40 rounds before the gun became overheated; the fire was then switched to the Third Section which fired 37 rounds. 20mm's. began to zip in around the gun positions, and to clip limbs off trees in the vicinity, so march order was given at 1820 hours and the guns moved to their alternate positions 500 yards to the northeast. Of the 77 rounds fired, 60 were target hits and a satisfactory hole was blasted in the wall. One casualty resulted when Pvt. Buffalo B. Estep forgot to pull in his ears and had one of them nicked by a direct hit from a 20mm. He returned to duty after receiving first aid.

Firing was resumed from the alternate position at 1950 hours using the original OP's, and 107 rounds were expended before march order was given.

Battery "A" spent the day conducting reconnaissance in an attempt to move the guns up to fire on the east side of the wall. The debris and

empty walls of ruined buildings prevented them from finding a satisfactory position, even though the reconnaissance was at times carried on within 100 yards of the front lines.

Battery "C" continued firing observed and scheduled missions from the Battalion position.

On 12 September, the 2nd Inf. Div. planned to attack the east wall of the Fort, and Battery "A" was ordered to participate in the attack by breaching the wall in order that the infantry could get through. The Fourth Section, under Sgt. Donald H. Price, was selected for the mission. A gun position was located in a street about 500 yards from the wall and the gun was brought forward through alleyways for purposes of concealment, and arrived in position at about 1000 hours. The OP was established 50 yards to the right of the position and the fire commands were given by voice. After firing 14 rounds the wall was breached sufficiently to allow the infantry to pass through and the gun was withdrawn.

A mission for a second gun was ordered at the same time and Lieutenant Markham, with Sergeant Rolando's Second Section, was selected for this mission. The targets consisted of several pillboxes along a ravine near the shore of the harbor of Brest, and the only position from which fire could be brought to bear on the targets was on an exposed hilltop at a range of 600 yards. The plan of attack was to fire a few rounds as rapidly as possible and "scram" before the enemy could bring counter-battery fire to bear. The first round fired, however, drew a large concentration of enemy fire, and after firing four rounds it was found necessary to march order and get out to prevent the loss of the gun and personnel. The gun and all personnel were safely evacuated from the position, but only after some near misses that had everyone's hair on

end. After moving some distance, it was discovered that the evacuation of the position had been made so rapidly that a round was still in the barrel; so the gun was placed in position again and the round fired into the city.

Batteries "B" and "C" remained in the Battalion position on this day, firing scheduled and observed missions.

On 13 September Battery "A" was attached to the 15th F.A. Bn., 2nd Inf. Div., for direct fire missions supporting the attack on the north side of Brest. A rendezvous was selected about one mile northeast of Lambazellec and was occupied during the afternoon. A gun position was chosen 300 yards in the rear of the front lines and 1,500 yards from the targets. The position was in a grove of trees near a castle overlooking the railroad yards in the southern part of Brest. The OP was set up near the gun so that commands could be given by voice. Sergeant Rolando brought up his gun and firing started at 1245 hours. The crew managed to expend about 35 rounds before enemy counter-battery landed on the gun position. The "mail" came in with a bang and all at once. Shells of both medium and heavy caliber laid down a heavy concentration which knocked down several trees and plowed up the position thoroughly. All personnel had dived into their foxholes in time and fortunately no one was hurt. After the enemy fire had quieted down, the Section again opened fire and in spite of sporadic enemy firing remained in the position until 1615 hours when the mission was completed with excellent results. The targets taken under fire consisted of blockhouses, gun emplacements, dugouts, houses, and tunnels, and 100 rounds were expended.

Battery "B" remained in the Battalion position and fired observed and scheduled missions.

Battery "A" was assigned the same mission for 14 September as it had had the previous day, and more ammunition was allocated for expenditure. To permit continuous firing, two guns were brought up for the mission so that one gun could fire while the other was cooling. The First Section under Sgt. Edgar Greenfield and the Second Section under S/Sgt. Rolando were moved into position at 1230 hours but counter-battery fell on the position before they could open fire and prevented firing until 1430 hours. During this shelling two rounds landed within ten yards of the fox-hole occupied by Capt. Blaise S. Jackewicz, Lt. Donald D. McNitt, T/5 Martin J. Pendrotti, and T/5 Raymond H. Rose. T/Sgt. Robert L. DeBolt was actually caught with his pants down by this fire and reports that it is an awfully helpless feeling. Visibility was very poor because of smoke and dust from burning buildings and exploding shells that blanketed the target area all afternoon; for that reason firing was slow and continued so until 1950 hours. A total of 137 target hits was achieved with 150 rounds. When march order was given the defense around Brest had been reduced by three dugouts, four pill-boxes, one 75mm. gun, and a large ammunition dump. The ammunition dump was the largest target fired on and, as the Battery pulled out, we could see the burning rockets flying through the air and hear the chatter of exploding small arms ammunition and the occasional boom of artillery ammunition. It was a lovely sight to us and the column of smoke and flame that rose from the dump seemed to be a monument to our firing for that day.

Battery "C" was assigned the mission of blasting away at the Fort Bougen wall. Enemy gun positions and machine gun emplacements were scattered all along the wall but the bushes growing there made it im-

possible to locate a gun unless one just happened to be looking right at it when it fired. Lt. Philip H. Bagwell selected a 1,000 yard sector of the wall and methodically raked the top of it, placing rounds at all the spots that seemed likely to hold enemy defenses. The Second Section under Sgt. E. C. Stovall was used for this mission. It consisted of Cpl. L. C. Foster, Cpl. William G. Majetich, T/4 C. E. Tonnemacher, T/5 Vernon L. Linn, Pfc. L. B. Flannigan, Pfc. R. P. Lynch, Pfc. I. L. Firl, Pvt. George Borkowski, Pvt. C. E. Cantrell, Pvt. Salvatore Lengio, Pvt. Joseph Levinskis, and Pvt. P. P. Freeman. The Section fired 164 rounds, of which 143 were target hits. The firing was observed and conducted by Lieutenant Bagwell, Lt. Eugene V. Poe, and S/Sgt. Archie H. Stinson.

Battery "B" remained in position and fired 200 rounds on observed and scheduled missions.

The day of 15 September was spent by "A" Battery in reconnaissance for positions from which to fire in support of the coming attack on the Fort itself. The only positions from which effective fire could be directed were at the almost suicidal range of from 100 to 300 yards from the Fort. For that reason the position occupied the day before was used again and fire was placed on such positions as would threaten the gun when it moved into the newly reconnoitered positions. Lt. Joseph J. Donegan moved the Fourth Section under Sergeant Price into position late in the afternoon, and fired 64 rounds in spite of mortar fire which continually harassed the position and occasionally drove the cannoneers to their foxholes. Four concrete dugouts, three pillboxes, and three houses were destroyed in the inner defense wall along the southeast edge of the water front. No casualties resulted from the mortar fire, and the cannoneers be-

haved like the battle-tested veterans they now were.

Battery "C" was assigned the same mission as on the day before and occupied the same position. During the morning the Fourth Section fired 33 rounds. This Section, under Sgt. Claude Ray, consisted of Cpl. J. J. Linster, Cpl. H. H. Satterfield, T/4 C. A. Carlson, T/5 R. E. Dulaney, Pfc. J. M. Hoffman, Pfc. T. L. Fellers, Pvt. W. R. Sterling, Pvt. W. C. Melching, Pfc. S. D. Winship, Jr., Pvt. K. M. Whitaker, Pfc. M. T. Clements, Pvt. U. E. Black. That afternoon the Third Section fired 131 rounds. This Section, under Sgt. J. L. Haugsrud, consisted of Cpl. A. W. Adams, Cpl. J. C. Peck, T/4 G. J. Lamaster, T/5 T. P. Meyer, Pfc. W. R. German, Pfc. G. J. Ziegler, Pvt. R. S. Damron, Pvt. Jokichi Takamine, Pvt. Joseph Ryan, Pvt. William C. Link, Pfc. L. E. Cowles, and Pvt. M. N. McEnroe. The records show that out of the 164 rounds fired during the day, a total of 137 target hits were obtained.

Battery "B" again remained in the Battalion position and fired 200 rounds on observed and scheduled missions.

On 16 September, Batteries "A" and "C" continued to support the attack of the 2nd Inf. Div. Battery "A" was employed on the east side of the city and the Fourth Section under Sgt. D. H. Price moved to the attack and into position at 1830 hours among the hospital buildings which were then the front lines. They attacked targets just inside the wall of the Fort at ranges of less than 600 yards. After firing ten rounds, they were fired on with 120mm. mortars which really "peppered" the position. The gun section sought safety in the buildings and so saved their skins. The Fourth Section continued firing intermittently between the incoming rounds even though some of them landed within ten yards of the gun, and the cannoneers stuck it out until

the mission was accomplished. Enemy mortars knocked the corner off a warehouse near the gun exposing a great number of very lovely bottles which were rapidly liberated, and the gun moved out of position with the whole gun crew and the nearby infantry happily cheering "Vive la France!"

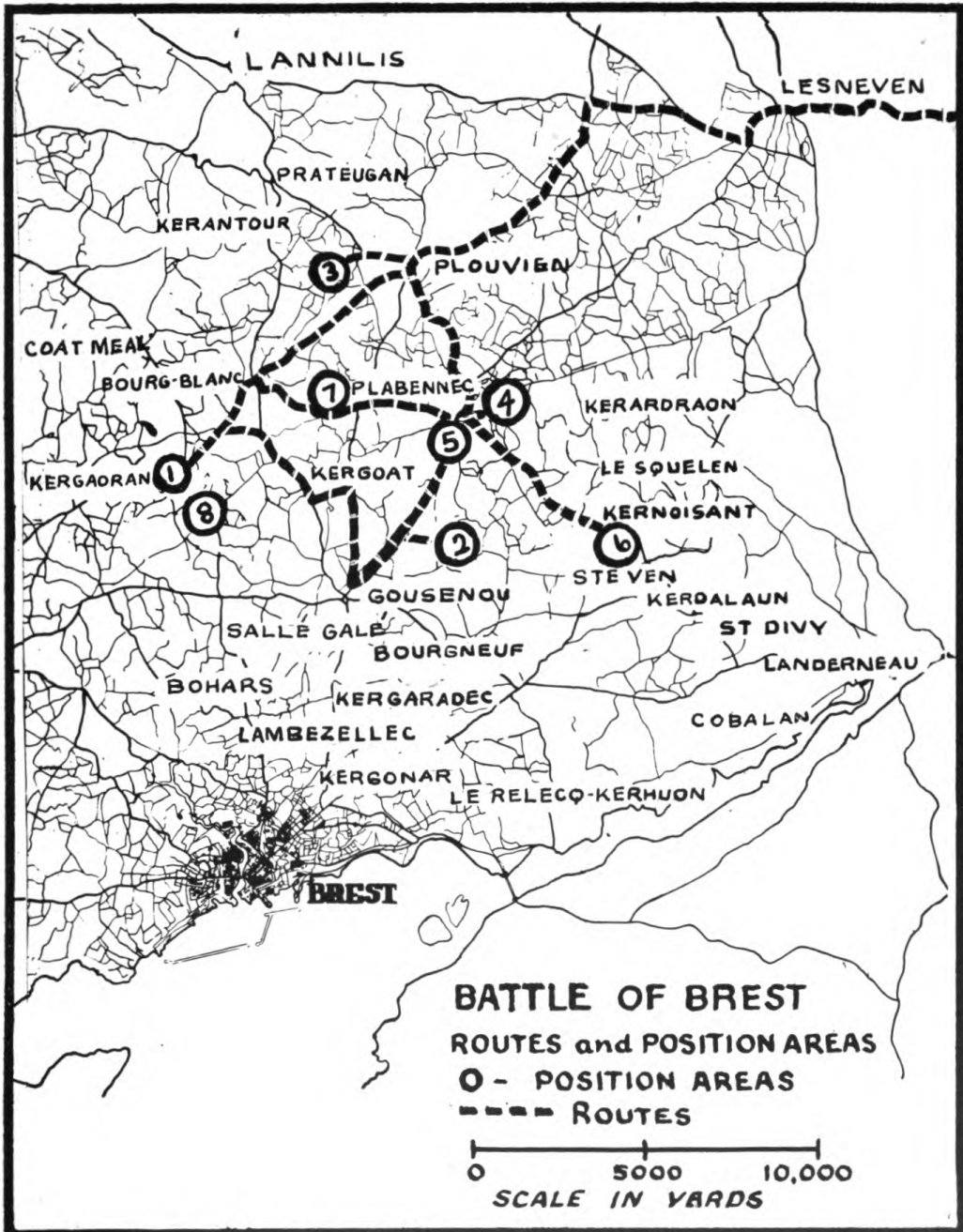
Capt. B. S. Jackewicz received orders on 17 September to continue firing on tragets inside the wall from positions near the hospital, and the position selected was only 150 yards from the wall itself. The Fourth Section moved forward simultaneously with the infantry attack, but the expected resistance did not materialize and the support of the gun was unwarranted, so they pulled out and returned to the bivouac at 1830 hours.

On 16 and 17 September Battery "C", using the First, the Third, and the Fourth Sections, fired 379 rounds against the wall from positions from 300 to 600 yards northeast of Lambazellec. 332 target hits were recorded. The First Section, under Sgt. Harry Ducey, consisted of Cpl. L. W. Edwards, Cpl. Joe McCarty, T/4 L. A. Gilberts, T/5 R. H. Rose, Pfc. Joe Montano, Pfc. Herbert E. Giloy, Pfc. T. B. Goodman, Pfc. John Luksa, Pvt. R. E. Cordero, Pvt. M. G. Morehouse, Pvt. Robert E. Decker, and Pvt. F. E. Davis.

Rank became very cheap on 17 September when 2nd Lts. Marion C. Cartlidge, William R. Mosby, and William D. Reimann received orders of promotion to the grade of first lieutenants, effective as of 4 September. During these two days Battery "B" remained in position in the Battalion and fired scheduled and observed missions.

After six weeks of hard and bloody fighting, Brest fell on 18 September before the might of the 174th F.A. Bn. and the VIII Corps. We were the only troops in on the kill who had been all the way with this fight. The

THE FALL OF BREST



last days of what was probably one of the bloodiest and hardest fought battles of the war were a far cry from the early days of the siege when the Germans had everything their way.

With the surrender of the city,

Batteries "A" and "C" returned to the Battalion and the sack of the German forts began. Beverages of all types and proofs were hauled out of the city; Lugers, P38's, 32's, cameras, cosmetics, and a thousand and one other souvenirs began to show up in

the Battalion. Crozon Peninsula, across the harbor from Brest, surrendered on 19 September, and with its fall all organized resistance in that sector ceased.

In the siege of Brest our Battalion used the M12 for the first time to do direct firing; the results obtained and the reports made on the firing drew the following commendation from higher headquarters:

HEADQUARTERS VIII CORPS ARTILLERY

APO 308

U. S. ARMY

8 Sept. 1944

SUBJECT: Report on Employment of the 155mm Gun, M12 (SP)

TO : Commanding Officer, 196 F.A. Gp.

1. The report submitted by you and the reports from the C. O., 174th F.A. Bn., covering the above subject were excellent and furnished excellent information.

2. Lt. Col. Langley and those concerned are to be commended for the conduct of the tests and the results obtained.

3. All concerned will be acquainted with his commendation.

John E. McMahon

Brigadier General, USA

Commanding

1st Ind.

Hq 196 FA Gp, APO 403 US Army 9 Sept 1944

TO: CO, 174th FA Bn

Transmitted with pleasure and the assurance that any credit for this commendation belongs to you and your battalion.

Edward R. Roberts

Col. 196 FA Gp

Commanding

The 174th F.A. Bn. was given much of the credit for the defeat of the Germans and the capture of the Fortress of Brest. On 19 September the following letter of commendation was received:

HEADQUARTERS VIII CORPS

In the capture of Brest and the adjacent territory by the officers and enlisted men who formed a part of the VIII Corps, a chapter in history is made. By the elimination of approximately forty thousand troops from the German Army, our future task has been made easier. By securing Brest, an important Atlantic seaport is made available to the Allies.

To single out the achievement of one unit in the task which has just ended would be difficult. The performance of all units has been magnificent. There has been no shirking of duty or responsibility. Each organization has shared in the undertaking. In the 2nd Parachute Division of the German Army, you met the best. You will meet no better troops in your future battles. We are better soldiers today than we were when we entered this engagement because of the fact that we have met and eliminated the best Germany has to offer.

We have paid a price in casualties for the job we have done. Many of our comrades have died in the struggle for Brest in order that we who live can share in the satisfaction that the job has been well done. We regret their passing. It is the fortunes of war that they should die while we carry the torch to other battlefields.

I desire to take this means of thanking all who have shared in this campaign for their fine work. It has been a privilege to command and work with you. Each officer and enlisted man should take pride in the fact that, as a result of your work before Brest, three German divisions and many other German troops have been erased from the troop list of World War II.

Troy H. Middleton

Major General, U. S. Army

Commanding

The Battalion also received the personal commendation of the Commanding General and the Division Artillery Commander, 2nd Inf. Div., who said, "It is difficult to single out the achievement of any individual or unit since the performance of all units and individuals was magnificent." Much credit, however, is passed on to the officers and men of the firing batteries, the observation teams, and the communication men that made our success possible.

During all the attacks in which the Battalion participated the Fifth Sections functioned superbly. In many cases they were the first men to arrive at a position and the last ones to leave. The personnel of the ammunition sections were as follows:

Battery "A"

Sgt. Charles L. Hamon
Cpl. William J. Mitchell
Cpl. Henry M. Sewell
T/5 Arthur J. Braucher
Pfc. Howard A. Hagen
Pfc. Clarence W. Smallwood
Pfc. Peter Capitelli
Pvt. Howard V. Wallace
Pvt. Walter Domer
Pvt. Edward Kusnierz
Pvt. Charles E. Kasten

Battery "B"

Sgt. Philip D. Earrey
Cpl. Gale L. Ackerman
Cpl. Arthur N. Olson
Pfc. Glenn L. Carlson
Pfc. Erving F. Stuckey
Pfc. Edward M. Williams
Pvt. Lawrence K. Webb
Pvt. George W. Litz, Jr.
Pvt. John M. Blasko
Pvt. John Slama

Battery "C"

Sgt. George W. Rutherford
Cpl. John J. Murphy
Cpl. William E. Smith
Pfc. Earnest Q. Macon
Pvt. George Fialkovich
Pvt. Marion C. Jenson
Pvt. Kenneth D. Jones
Pvt. James Sarris
Pvt. Alex McMillon



*Do you remember these posters,
Buddy?*



*Church in Bohairs used by Germans.
First direct fire mission of "A" Battery, 174th F.A.*

We really owe a vote of thanks to these guys for the way they kept the "caissons rolling."

The Stars and Stripes for 25 September carried the following story about the Battle of Brest:

THE STORY OF BREST -- OF GUNS, OF RUINS, OF DEATH

Beaten Nazi Chief Still Arrogant in Midst of Debris

By MORROW DAVIS, Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

It took no expert knowledge to estimate the destruction of Brest; the city was virtually 100 percent destroyed when the Germans formally surrendered it at 1500 hours last Tuesday, hardly a building but was gutted.

The Brest campaign was almost lost sight of in the broad perspective. Brest just wasn't "good copy" compared with the airborne invasion of Holland and the denting of the Siegfried Line. But it was a hell of a tough operation for all that.

Maj. Gen. Troy H. Middleton, VIII Corps commander whose troops reduced the city, said of the defenses guarding France's second-largest port that in his military experience he had never seen anything quite as good.

37,000 Prisoners Taken

The entire operation lasted three weeks and four days, during which approximately 37,000 prisoners were captured -- a figure which supported early estimates that some 50,000 enemy troops had taken refuge in the old city on the tip of the Brittany Peninsula.

The defense of Fortress Brest was almost a last-bullet, last-man job under the direction of 56-year-old Lt. Gen. Hermann Bernhard Ramcke, certainly a terrific soldier, like it or not. Taken with Ramcke were three other general officers -- Kroh, Mosel (chief of staff) and Rausch -- and Adm. Kahler, second in command, who was reading "Crime and Punishment" when captured.

Three divisions were entirely erased from the German Army troop list -- the 266th, 343rd and Second Paratroop, the last-named an outfit that

had few equals and was commanded by Ramcke himself before circumstances threw him into the post of Brest commandant. Kroh took over as head of the paratroopers and was elevated from colonel to general.

Three battle-hardened American divisions accomplished this mission -- the Second Infantry, the Eighth Infantry, and the 29th Infantry, plus Task Force B, which early mopped up Plougastel (or Daoulas) Peninsula.

Seized on Crozon

The other peninsula ringing the bay -- Crozon -- was the scene of the last German resistance and there it was that Ramcke was captured by the same doughboys of an Eighth Division regiment who did such a hell of a job at the jump-off in taking the incredibly-formidable strongpoint which history will call "Hill 88."

At the jumpoff, the Eighth Division attacked from the north, the Second from the east and the 29th from the west. When the Eighth reached the city proper, it was pinched off by divisions on either flank and subsequently diverted to the Crozon Peninsula, where the defenders, almost to the finale, had five big-gun batteries throwing periodical harassing fire on the Second Division, in the eastern outskirts of Brest, and the 29th, attacking through Recouvrance across the Penfeld River from the Old City.

Ramcke probably went over to Crozon on Monday, the day before the capitulation. When apprehended, he asked the U. S. general for the latter's credentials. The general pointed to the M1's carried by his GI's and said those were his credentials.

This Ramcke was some guy. Middleton characterized him by saying that no matter how ruthless, he was nevertheless a soldier. Ramcke had refused surrender terms after the Sixth Armored poured up through Brittany past Rennes and contained the German garrison in Brest -- a garrison composed of three Nazi divisions already mentioned, plus navy and marine personnel and Todt Organization labor troops.

Ramcke again refused surrender terms offered by Middleton the week before the finale. These terms pointed out the futility of expending lives for a port that had "lost its significance, since so many ports are now in Allied hands." Ramcke replied tersely: "I must refuse your proposal." (Hitler had ordered him to hold out for four months.)

Breakfast Came First

Reporters encountered this fantastic German general last Wednesday morning at Middleton's HQ (we waited while Ramcke had breakfast). When he appeared with his adjutant he was carrying a cane and leading a beautiful Irish setter. He wore a camouflaged cap, a camouflaged jacket, field-green paratroop trousers and black paratroop boots. Around his neck hung the Knight Cross over a shirt collar of pale blue cambric. It was the only decoration he wore; his only insignia were his lieutenant general's epaulets, to which he pointed in explaining his promotion, during the siege, from major general.

Ramcke posed for the photographers willingly enough. The kindly Middleton urged him to where the exacting photogs wanted the group -- Middleton, Ramcke and Ramcke's adjutant, Col. Moller, attired in dress uniform of field blue with pink trouser seams.

Ramcke was clean-shaven; frequently he smiled during the process of posing. Apparently he understood some English.

"I feel like a film star," he announced once.

Middleton retorted that posing was little enough for Ramcke to do, seeing that his military job was finished. The American general added that his own work was not finished.

"What have you done?" Ramcke asked (leaving himself open for the obvious answer). Besides, continued Middleton, he had served in the U. S. Army 34 years.

"I've got you beat," said Ramcke. "I've served 39½ years."

The Last War?

Middleton smiled wryly and stated patiently that this was his (Middleton's) last war.

"I don't believe it," retorted Ramcke emphatically.

And when Middleton, saying of Brest that it was a total wreck and would have to rise again, explained to Ramcke that the Americans were turning the city over to the French the following day, the arrogant Nazi stated: "They are getting nothing."

Yes, Brest was a tough nut to crack. The Second Division, for example, moved from its point of departure approximately 3,000 yards to to within 150 yards of the Old City wall, built in 1680. Bloodiest strong-point encountered by this outfit was Hill 105, taken in a sneak maneuver under cover of early-morning fog and supported by strong artillery and mortar fire.

As a matter of fact, artillery was our trump card. It was fearful. And the dogfaces were grateful, for throughout their progress, hedgerow tactics up to the street fighting, they themselves faced terrific fire from Kraut arty. that always had the advantage of observation.

Looking back on some of the defense approaches to the city, it seems incredible that the Yanks were able to occupy them at all. The Germans used every type of gun available. They used flak guns against personnel to

a great extent. It was learned that they considered the efficiency of their anti-aircraft against plane attack so low as to be unwarranted.

P47's Terrified Nazis

This probably cost them a number of PW losses. Middleton stated that there never was a wholesale surrender of prisoners; the Yanks had to go get 'em. Which was true. But during the hedgerow fighting, a great many Germans gave up because they couldn't take the P47 dive-bombing and strafing. These were, in the main, Navy and Marine personnel who had been shuffled into the front lines among just enough paratroopers to hold them together. And the Thunderbolt, which they called "Jabos" (a contraction of the German for fighter-bomber) had them terrified.

Contrary to popular belief, most German artillery in this operation was not mobile. They had some SP guns, some horse-drawn. But in the main the positions were fixed. There was evidence that many had been planned for defense against invasion by sea, then converted. Nearly all German guns had a 360-degree traverse; even mortars were emplaced on fixed turntables The rail yards were a rusty mess, the rolling stock junk. Vessels were sunk near the breakwater. A big viaduct was blown to hell as U.S. troops entered the outskirts.

On a spur of land jutting out in the bay on the Recouvrance side, with a lighthouse at its tip, was a huge reinforced concrete building housing 15 submarine pens, 30 yards wide and a quarter of a mile long. The roof was 15 feet thick. The pens were full of debris.

One U-boat was partially submerged in the bay.

This little peninsula was a labyrinth of tunnels. Here was a huge hospital with five entrances housing 14,000 wounded. It had an operating theater. German nurses were in at-

tendance.

The sub pens had an amazing amount of supplies: Food for six to 12 months stacked from floor to ceiling over many acres; thousands of boxes of cigars; tons of chocolate; blankets with sachets between the layers to make them smell sweet (most Germans do not smell sweet; in the field they live in their filth without seeming to care: they don't bother to use a shovel; THEY STINK!)

Old Wall Blasted

The Old Wall surrounding Brest was 20 meters thick, 25 meters high. You should have seen our 155's tearing into it. On the south end facing the docks it was honeycombed with tunnels blasted out of the solid rock a long time ago by the French.

One tunnel with two entrances was a hospital in which were 806 enemy wounded plus eight Americans, two of whom were Air Corps officers. Here was food for 21 days, including fresh lemons (from Spain) and canned strawberries.

Over on the Crozon Peninsula was another German hospital. The little town of Le Fret was cleared of civilians and turned into a hospital town, with every inch of housing space made use of. Here were 1,300 wounded, in charge of a few German nurses. Here also were some prostitutes.

Brest was formally surrendered by Col. Erich Pietzonka, commander of the Seventh Paratroop Regiment, in a ceremony at Woodrow Wilson Place. Under this square was a great dugout, 70 feet down, in which were the remnants of the soldiers who fought for Ramcke, Hitler, and Brest. There were a couple of hundred of them and they were sullen.

The whole damn thing was pretty grim.

Through all the fighting near Brest the Red Cross donut truck "Atlanta"



We will never forget the Red Cross Club Mobile "Atlanta."

served the Battalion coffee and donuts at least once each week. Many times they parked their truck in a pretty hot spot. The Battalion always regarded these girls as regular troopers.

During the siege and assault of the Fortress of Brest the 174th F.A. Bn. fired a total of 6,461 rounds. Both the observers and cannoneers were granted permission to visit the targets they had fired on and to view the destruction they had wrought within the city and its outlying districts. Blasted pillboxes, destroyed guns, charred buildings and gun positions, and the many dead Germans lying about gave mute evidence of the accuracy and effectiveness of their fire.

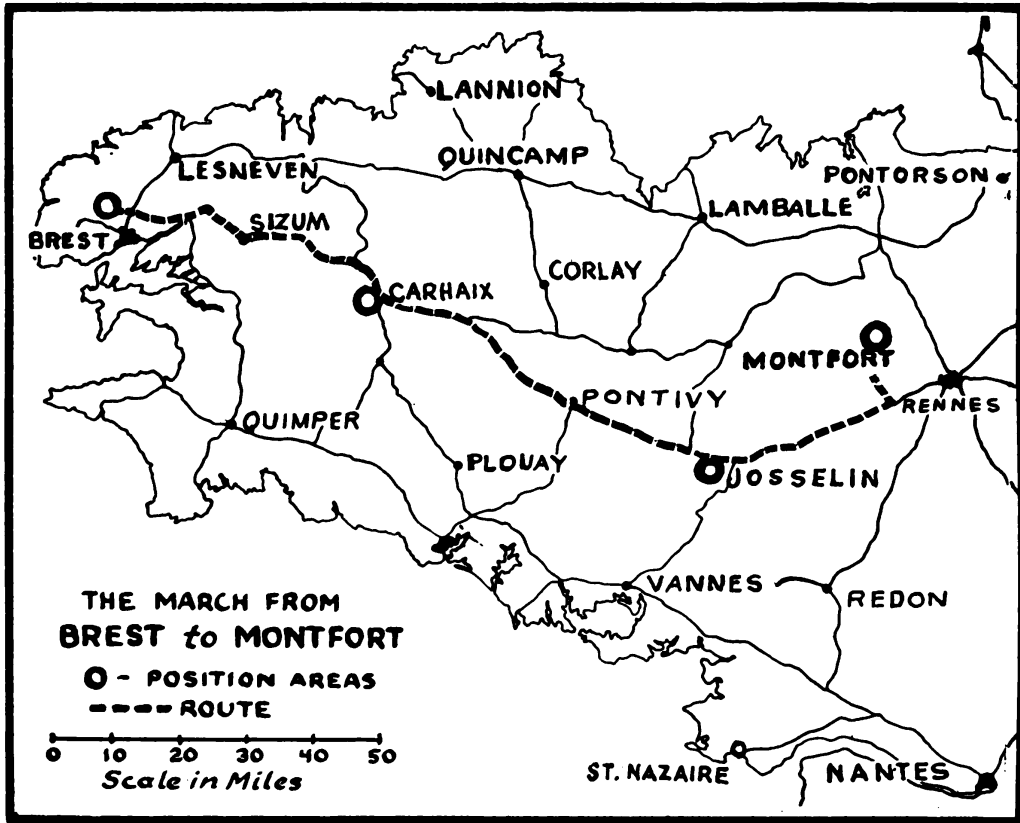
Immediately upon the cessation of hostilities around Brest the Battalion started on a thorough and much-needed maintenance program to get our vehicles ready for the long march to the active fronts. In the five-day period, 20-24 September all tank motors were pulled and all vehicles completely serviced. The maintenance crews did an excellent job, and by

working day and night had the vehicles ready to move by midnight, 24 September. Great credit is due the maintenance sections for this outstanding achievement.

Cpl. John P. Watkins and Pvt. Manual R. Salgado returned to duty from the hospital on 21 September, and on the following day T/5 John F. Vugrinec, of "C" Battery, was evacuated because of an infected finger.

Three replacements were received by the Battalion on 23 September, and they were assigned as follows: Cpl. Edward J. Gaynor to Battery "B" as Battery Clerk, Pvt. Paul H. Gressensand and Pvt. Robert E. Hyle to Battery "A" as cannoneers.

The Battalion began a march to the vicinity of Rennes on 25 September at 1300 hours, marched 54 miles, and bivouaced for the night about four miles west of Carhaix. The march was continued the next day at 0700 hours, and after marching 65 miles we bivouaced for the night about one mile east of Josselin. For the first time in three months the men had a night in town. At 0715 hours, 27 Sep-



tember, the march was resumed and the Battalion closed into the final bivouac area, near Montfort about 14 miles west of Rennes, France, after marching 32 miles. On closing into bivouac the Battalion was detached from VIII Corps and attached to the 34th F.A. Brigade, per VOGC, Ninth Army. After 76 continuous combat days the Battalion proposed to settle down in the bivouac area for a well-earned and expected 10-day rest.

The rude awakening came on 28

September when the Battalion was detailed to send 15 trucks, Lt. Eugene V. Poe in charge, to haul supplies from Brittany to the German front. On the following day Capt. Richard A. Reid left with four additional trucks for the same mission, and on the same day we furnished 11 weapons carriers to join a similar convoy to assist in hauling supplies.

"Captain" Philip H. Bagwell became the official title for the CO of "C" Battery on 29 September, 1944.

FROM RENNES TO THE WESTERN FRONT

1 October, 1944 - 31 October, 1944

WHILE the trucks were off hauling supplies to the fighting fronts, the rest of the Battalion busied itself hunting up new tracks for our guns, tearing down German barracks and dragging the lumber into our area to build huts, reviewing combat subjects, and taking our recreation where we found it -- especially when we found it in Rennes.

One of the happier angles to our new mode of life was the fact that within the comparatively short distance of ten miles there was a shower available. In Normandy we had forgotten what a shower was, and even after things settled down at Brest a bath meant a 50-mile round trip. So all in all, bathing from a helmet was getting distinctly passe when we arrived at our bivouac near Montfort.

Lt. William D. Reimann, on 3 October, was detailed to take 18 trucks to haul supplies for the Ninth Army from Brittany to the German front. On this trip the men began to appreciate the emphasis that the Battalion had put on maintenance, for they found their trucks in better condition, and their driving far superior to that of the regular truckers. Their destination was Maastrich, Holland, just a few miles from the area where the Battle of Aachen was in progress. Consequently our men found that some of the trucking companies' guards who were new to the combat area had very itchy trigger-fingers. It was not unusual to be aroused in the night by the sound of a shot from a guard who had challenged some innocent dog and, receiving no answer, sent him forthwith to dog-heaven.

After making several runs with ammunition the detail returned to Rennes and immediately began to re-



gale all who would listen to the finer points of "The Little Dutch Girl."

While in the bivouac so near the ancient Breton capital of Rennes, the men were given their first passes since leaving Ludlow, England. Every afternoon trucks filled with men took off for the city. Now everyone really sweated over that French phrase book, and made endless curious sounds in trying to carry on conversations with the girls. Confidentially, they didn't do so bad either -- with the language, of course! What a treat though, to ride into town in a GI convertible. "Drop me off at the Stork Club, James," "I'll take a martini, Joe." Of course, you ended up with cognac or *cidre* in a little hole in the wall somewhere, but so what! That was luxury after a three-month drought.

Wine -- Women -- Song; then Wine -- Women; and then Wine again! Theaters, music, liquor, women, American Red Cross Clubs, doughnuts, and a thousand and one other things one hadn't seen for months. *Dem wuz de days, Moitle!*

Parties were arranged by the officers for the men; the Batteries gave parties for one another; men ar-



ranged parties for themselves (those were the good ones); Sections gave parties for themselves and for other Sections. The mademoiselles for miles around were run ragged by constant parties and dances, and all the photographers in town worked night and day to turn out pictures for us to send home. The stores doubled their prices immediately, for we bought anything they had for sale to send to wives, sweethearts, and mothers.

The Battalion was attached to the 6th TD Group, per attachment letter, 34th F.A. Brigade, dated 11 October, 1944. On the same day, our last remaining second lieutenant became 1st Lt. Alfred L. Carlson.

On 15 October, the Battalion received a TWX from the Ninth U. S. Army to move from the vicinity of Rennes to Longwy, France, and the following day, it was relieved from attachment to 34th F.A. Brigade and attached to the 7th TD Group, per attachment letter, 34th F.A. Brigade, dated 16 October, 1944. On 20 October all trucks out hauling supplies to the battle fronts returned to the Battalion and were loaded up in preparation for the trip across France.

The Battalion loaded its full track equipment on the train at Camp Coetquidan, France, per VOGC Ninth

U. S. Army. The rail movement consisted of two trains in charge of Capt. J. W. Powers and 1st Lt. Joseph J. Donegan and left Camp Coetquidan at 1500 hours, 22 October. Lieutenant Donegan was in charge of the first section which left hours before the second section under Captain Powers.

When orders were received to move out, the engineer on the first section gave a blast on his whistle, took a long pull on his bottle of *cidre*, and the section took off backwards toward Rennes. Upon their arrival in Paris at 1500 hours the following day, the men were not allowed to leave the train; they were told by the French railroad officials that they would be pulling out in five minutes. After they had sat on the siding for five hours, Lieutenant Donegan contacted a U. S. colonel in the transportation corps and explained the situation. The colonel, by raising particular hell with the French railroad officials and by threatening to give the men a pass into Paris, was finally successful in coercing the French to produce another engine, and the train proceeded merrily on its way.

The second section of the train pulled out shortly before dark at the killing pace of 20 mph and rolled jauntily along for about two miles

before stopping for the railroad men to retire to a track-side building for refreshments. Fifteen minutes later the crew emerged from the house wiping their handlebar mustaches, smiling, and muttering "Cognac! Bon!" The train continued on its way, happily ignoring the danger of loose rails and flying crossties, until it arrived at Le Mans at 2300 hours where it developed a hot box on one of the flat cars carrying a gun. After a great deal of hunting around the yards, and finally sending to Laval, another car was procured, the gun was transferred, and the train again got under way at 0300 hours, 23 October. Paris was passed after dark and in a rainstorm, so no one got to see much of the Pride of France.

All along the way we had an opportunity to look over the battlefields of the last war, Chateau Thierry, Verdun, and the Argonne. We didn't enjoy the trip, though, for travel via a French railroad is not tops in luxury. Our Pullmans were the side-door variety popularly known as the "Hommes 40, Chevaux (en lang) 8," and they definitely lived up to the stories we had heard of them from the last war. Evidently the last passengers in the cars had been the "8's" and they had not policed up before leaving the train. The upper third of the cars was open up to the roof, and wind, the cinders from the engine, and the odor of the former occupants made the trip almost unendurable. French railroads have many peculiarities; we all swore that either the wheels on the cars were flat or the crossties were laid on top of the rails. Sleeping was almost impossible because of the rattle of the wheels, the scream of the brakes, and the constant jolting that kept us off the floor at least half of the time.

Somewhere around Paris the second section passed the first section, which added to the troubles of the already confused railroad system. Whoever

heard of having the first section second and the second section first?

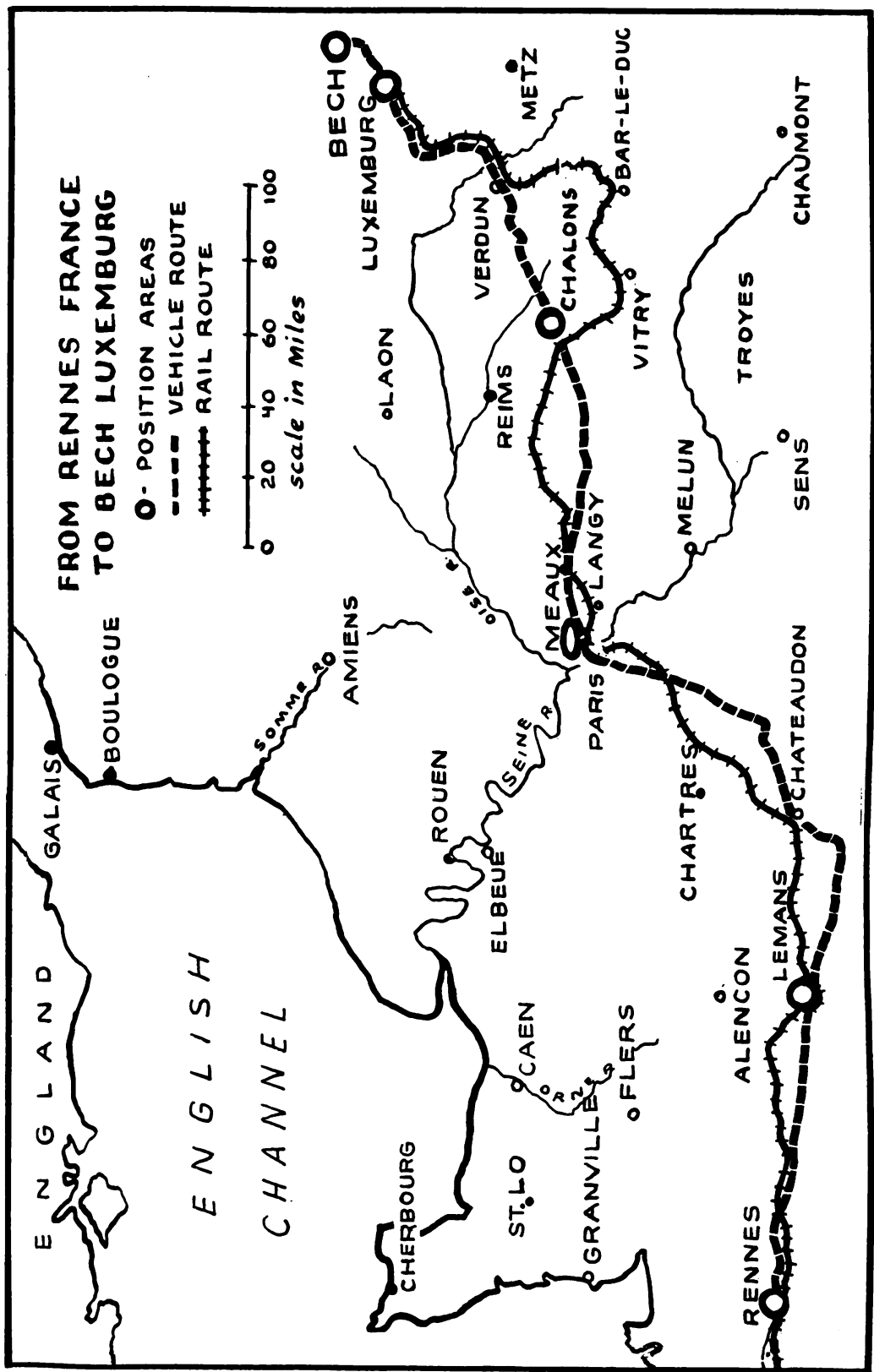
Upon arriving at Longuyon, France, the train was ordered to Longwy, France, and from there to Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, where we arrived during the night of 24-25 October. The trains were unloaded on the morning of 25 October and the guns marched to a bivouac area at Bech, Luxembourg, a small town 20 miles northeast of Luxembourg City.

The remainder of the Battalion, which included all the wheeled vehicles, broke camp on 23 October, and marched to a bivouac eight miles east of Le Mans after a march of 117 miles. A march of 179 miles was made the following day to a bivouac 10 miles east of Paris. On 25 October, the march was resumed and the Battalion closed into Bech, Luxembourg, at 2300 hours after covering 225 miles.

After it arrived at Bech, the Battalion was relieved of assignment to the Ninth U. S. Army and assigned to the First U. S. Army, per Troop Assignment No. 87, Headquarters Twelfth Army Group, dated 20 October, 1944, and attached to VIII Corps, per Troop Assignment No. 129, First U. S. Army, and attached to the 83rd Inf. Div. on 25 October 1944, per VOGC, VIII Corps.

The Battalion, less "A" Battery, occupied positions in and about the town of Bech, Luxembourg, on 26 October. "A" Battery was in the vicinity of Erbourg, Luxembourg. At 1725 hours on 26 October, the Battalion fired its first round into Germany as part of a base point registration.

The Battalion remained in position in the vicinity of Bech through 31 October, and fired 351 rounds on 55 missions as follows: 33 harassing, 14 enemy personnel, 1 supply dump, 3 enemy CP's, 1 enemy train, 2 artillery reconnaissance missions, and 1 into the city of Trier, Germany.



LUXEMBOURG

1 November, 1944 - 30 November, 1944

THE 83rd Inf. Div. was occupying defensive positions in the Duchy of Luxembourg when it was joined by the 174th F.A. Bn. The front lines, running from north to south, were along the Sauer River from a point a few miles northwest of Echternach to the Moselle River, and south along the Moselle to Grevenmacher. This was an exceedingly long front for a single division to hold—about 50 miles—so it was necessarily lightly held and generally was inactive.

The Germans held the east bank of the river and the Americans held the west bank, but both armies sent frequent partols into enemy territory to gather information. The 174th F.A. Bn. occupied two OP'S on the west side of the river and had the mission of firing on targets of opportunity across the river and reporting intelligence information. The OP's were so close to the enemy that it was necessary for them to establish their own local defense against the German patrols that frequently operated on our side of the river. Most of the targets fired on were working parties, chow lines, and trains which insisted on operating right under our nose between Trier and Konz Karthaus. The OP's received very little enemy fire and the observers had a good time chasing Jerries into the pill-boxes which dotted the east side of the river.

Cpl. John P. Watkins and Pvt. Roy Hendricks, who were staying at the forward switching central in Osweiler, were to accompany Lt. Alfred L. Carlson of Headquarters Battery to the OP on 4 November. When Lieutenant Carlson was delayed by business, they took off to the OP alone, thinking they had been forgotten. When



*Observation Post just beyond
Mompach, Luxembourg.*

they arrived at the OP just south of Echternach and found no one there, they tied a phone on the line and checked in with the CP, and received instructions to man the OP until Lieutenant Carlson arrived. A few minutes later they called back and reported a Heinie working party of 35 or 40 men digging a trench in the open. As they had no map they were not able to give the coordinates of the party, but described its location to the CP. After a little intensive map-reading, the CP approximated the coordinates and sent those coordinates to Fire Direction. The first round was sensed 200RR, the second 100LL, and the third 25 over. Corporal Watkins then requested that the battery cease fire but remain laid and fire at his command, as the Jerries had taken cover and he wanted to

wait until they offered a nice target before firing again. Ten or fifteen minutes later the Germans came out and resumed their interrupted work. "FIRE!" And the battery fired two rounds for effect. The next communication from the OP was "We blew hell out of them that time. Two shells landed right in the trench." Thirty minutes later came another message. "They've got ambulances and medics all over the place down there and they are still hauling them out." Needless to say, trench digging in that vicinity was suspended for the day.

Capt. William P. Morris, of Headquarters Battery, then sent a map to the OP for the budding observers and they were told to shoot at anything worth while. They had done so well on their first target that the CP was willing to give them anything.

A few hours later our embryo observers spotted a working party in another sector and attempted to call the Battalion for fire, but the switching central line to Battalion was busy and they couldn't get through. Undaunted, trigger happy, and flushed with success over their mission of that morning, they got in touch with the 322nd F.A. Bn. of the 83rd Inf. Div. Artillery, reported that they were 174th F.A. Bn. observers (probably intimidating, too, that they were working directly under General Eisenhower), described their target, gave the coordinates, and bulldozed the 322nd into firing for them!

The first salvo was 50 over, deflection correct. The next was range correct, deflection correct, fire for effect. They received two volleys in fire for effect and blasted the pants of the Jerries. -- And then they had the crust to come in to Battalion that night bitching because the 322nd had only given them one battery. They wanted the Battalion. Talk about egg in your beer!

In addition to our regular firing

on targets of opportunity, the Battalion was frequently assigned missions to fire on targets in and near Trier. To get the necessary range to accomplish the missions, the guns were moved forward into positions in the vicinity of Giwenich. Both OP's and forward gun positions were shelled by the enemy on several occasions, but with the OP's being securely dug in, and the gun sections pulling up, shooting fast, and pulling out, the German's retaliatory fire was always too late to increase the membership of the Purple Heart Club. On one occasion "B" Battery had just cleared its forward gun position when a heavy calibered shell landed right between the tracks the third section had made while firing.

The Battalion was attached to the 422nd F.A. Group, 83rd Inf. Div., on 6 November, 1944, per VOGC, VIII Corps, and moved by a night march to the vicinity of Filsdorf a few miles east of Luxembourg City to assist in a diversionary attack to push the Germans over the Moselle in that sector, while the Third Army made the main effort and attacked into the Saar Basin. On this day the winter rains and snow started and interfered no end with the comfort of the men and the maintenance of the guns and vehicles. These discomforts were somewhat offset, however, when the Battalion received orders that two per cent of the command were authorized two-day passes to an VIII Corps rest camp in the vicinity of Arlon, Belgium.

On the morning of 7 November, Lt. Marion C. Cartlidge, S/Sgt. Archie S. Stinson, T/4 Leopold Vokal, and Cpl. R. B. Taylor with the wire crew sallied forth in heavy rain and mud to establish an OP in the vicinity of Berg, Luxembourg. An abandoned German machine-gun pit on the forward slope of Hill 226 overlooking the Moselle River was selected for the OP, and with great difficulties

the wire crew put the wire in through the slush and mud. The hill was held by a TD outfit who had thoroughly booby-trapped the area with captured potato mashers, so we stuck pretty close to the OP and left exploring and souvenir hunting to those who had not seen much combat. A short time after the OP was established the Germans began shelling the hill with mortars. The fire was at random and did not land close to our installations, but even though ineffective it was dangerous enough to make us keep our heads in the hole.

During the second day on the OP, the party observed the 90th Inf. Div. secure a bridgehead across the river at Malling, a town on the German side of the Moselle River. Engineers set up a pontoon bridge under a smoke screen, and the Infantry crossed over to take Malling and push on beyond the town. German soldiers were seen in pairs and trios moving along the river bank toward Malling. Although the Germans shelled the vicinity of the bridge almost constantly, our troops continued their crossing.

From this grandstand seat the observers saw two ME109's dash in toward a Piper Cub that was circling the area and directing artillery fire. The pilot saw the enemy planes as soon as they appeared, gave a flash warning, and dove for the ground. The ME109's bombed and strafed the grounded Cub without doing any apparent damage, and then took off for Germany with some of our P-47's hot on their tail.

A short time later, Hill 226 got the heaviest shelling it had ever received from the German mortars. Mortars began to fall at 15-yard intervals along the hedgerow behind which our party had dug in, and foxholes were rapidly deepened. No one was hurt, but the wiremen were highly indignant for they had to lay another telephone wire to replace one blasted to pieces. That afternoon, as the party

was preparing to leave, a shell exploded in the vicinity of the parked jeep. The eyewitnesses, who had a worm's-eye view from their hole in the ground, reported that the vehicle actually jumped around. Lieutenant Cartlidge's crew gladly turned their OP over to another OP party on the afternoon of the third day.

At 0900 hours, 9 November, FDC received orders to register within 30 minutes on a base point not visible from either of our OP's. The order also said that the OP of the 81st F.A. Bn, which had already established communications, would be used by our observer for the registration. As neither observer could be contacted in time to get to the OP by 0930 hours, Capt. James W. Powers with his driver, Pfc. James H. Elliott, set out to fire the registration. They jumped into their jeep and took off through a pouring rain and knee-deep mud to locate the 81st F.A. Bn. OP. All went well until they arrived within two miles of the purported location of the OP, where it was necessary for them to cut across country. Cruising at a top speed of 5 mph through mud up to the bed of the jeep, they met a crew of engineers coming toward them using mine detectors. The engineers inquired what road the jeep had used and when told, immediately marked it cleared of mines.

About one mile from OP it was necessary to break defilade and to drive along the bank of the Moselle under direct observation and only 200 yards from the enemy. Needless to say, this stretch was covered quite speedily in spite of the condition of the so-called road. A short distance up the road some OP personnel of the 81st F.A. Bn. were encountered and they informed Captain Powers that their OP was manned and told him the exact location. Upon reaching the designated spot, the OP was discovered to be deserted, and thinking that they had been given poor directions,

Captain Powers and Private Elliott began searching for the OP on the bald knob of the hill. While crawling cautiously through a booby-trapped mine field, an enemy shell went singing over their heads and exploded in the valley behind them. They came out of the mine field like a shot and took cover in a clump of bushes on the brow of the hill. Another shell landed 100 yards to their left, and about that time they began to realize that they were occupying the only clump of bushes on the hill and a probable enemy base point. It was easy to picture them: the German observer sensing "100 right" and after the next shell "50 short fire for effect." Three shells in rapid succession landed only 15 yards short of their position. Fragments and odor of cordite filled air. The shell craters must have looked pretty good to the two harassed observers as they quickly accepted them as a defense expedient, occupied them, and rapidly deepened them with their fingernails.

When the shelling stopped, the two men, gracefully and with as much dignity as they could muster, executed the honorable stratagem of "getting the hell out of there." Upon their arrival at the bottom of the hill about three seconds later, the two observers used radio communications to register the Battalion. In doing so five rounds were fired in six minutes and a like number of German shells were received in return. The enemy fire must have been unobserved, for the 174th's first registering round flushed an enemy OP which also had been indiscreet enough to use our base point for an OP. The registration completed, Captain Powers and Private Elliot made a posthaste exit for the Battalion area, for the enemy was getting nasty about the whole thing and was dumping stuff on them from three directions.

At 1100 hours, 11 November, 1944, the Battalion joined in firing the

Armistice Day salute to the Germans, and on the following day, it fired on and assisted in breaking up three counter-attacks in the vicinity of Fort Koenigsmacher. Cpl. Francis E. Rohan and Pvt. Joseph Celis returned to duty from the hospital where they had been since being wounded at Av-ranches.

The diversionary attack over, the Battalion moved back to its original position in the vicinity of Bech. The OP's were again occupied and on the few clear days that followed, the observers had good hunting, shooting up targets of opportunity. The weather was so unsettled, however, that most of the missions fired were harassing missions on suspected enemy gun positions and lines of communication. The OP's were occasionally harassed now by enemy artillery fire and by small arms fire from enemy patrols which frequently infiltrated across the river.

On 16 November, M/Sgt. Arthur A. Sudbrink became the Battalion's first enlisted man to receive a battlefield promotion to second lieutenant for his outstanding work in the Brest campaign and for meritorious service as sergeant major of the Battalion. He was then assigned to "C" Battery for duty.

A train in Konz Karthaus caught hell from us on 18 November when it happened to pull into town while we had a plane in the air. The same date Battery "B" fired 16 rounds into Trier and the next day repeated itself by firing an additional 16 rounds on the same target.

On the afternoon of 20 November, 1st Lt. Floyd G. Fountain, who had joined the Battalion at Brest, and his driver, Pfc. Cecil Durard, "C" Battery, failed to return from their OP. The next morning a searching party headed by Lt. Col. Langley found their jeep and map board about 1½ miles southwest of the OP and signs of a struggle. The next day all medical

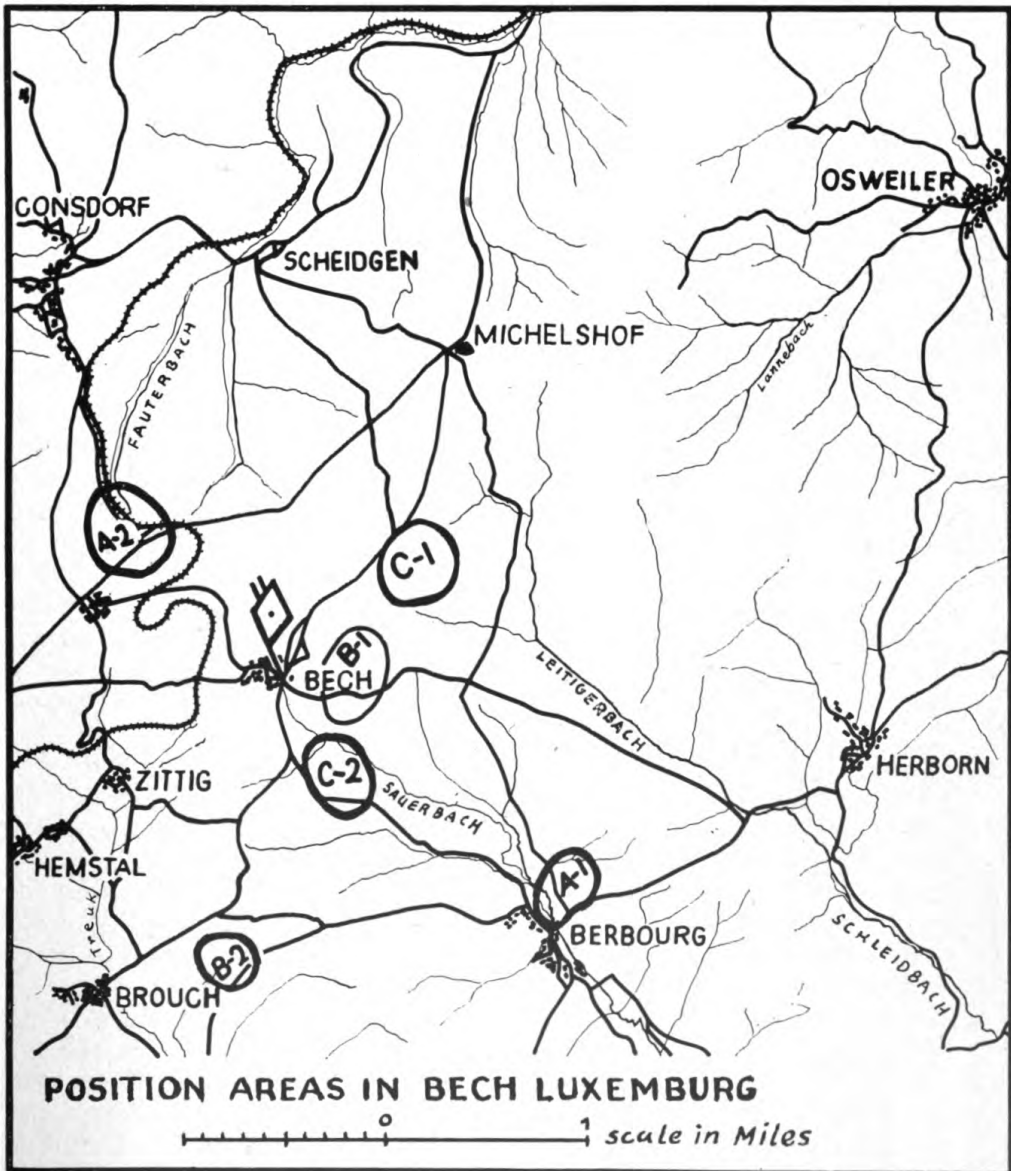
LUXEMBOURG

installations were checked and, when no trace of the officer or the enlisted man could be found, it was assumed that they had been captured, and they were dropped from the rolls as missing in action.

An enemy patrol was captured by the infantry on the night of 22 November, and upon searching them we found on overlay of all gun positions and forward gun positions we had ever occupied in this area located within 100 yards. The prisoners re-

vealed that their mission was to locate "Mallory Blue!" -- And that was us! Apparently we had made our presence so obnoxious to the Germans that they were taking considerable pains to locate us. On this date T/4 Bert Jones was evacuated with trench foot.

The 83rd Division established a rest camp in Rumelange, Luxembourg, and on 25 November we were informed that we were authorized to send six men every two days on two-day passes to the camp.



On 26 November, "A" Battery fired on Okerkemmelm Krettnace and Obernennung from their forward gun position.

The Battalion received its first quota of Paris passes on 27 November, and sent 11 men and one officer there on two-day passes. The tales they told when they got back! Wow!

The Battalion received notification that further allocations of service ammunition would contain 50 per cent captured projectiles, and on 30 November, we drew 150 rounds each of M3A1 and 15.5 centimeter shells.

The end of the month found about two-thirds of the Battalion comfortably situated in evacuated houses in Bech and the rest were either living in log huts or building them at the gun positions.

Life at Bech at this time was very pleasant. Snow, rain, and cold weather made things hard on the gun sections at times, but generally everyone lived a comfortable existence. Of course the plumbing was not that of the Waldorf Astoria, nor were the mattresses Beauty Rests, but after all we were living inside by warm fires (thanks to civilians who had

chopped so much fire wood before leaving) and were eating regularly. Buzz-bombs and rockets sailed overhead regularly, and an occasional artillery shell landed somewhere within a mile or so, but as a whole things were very quiet. On the last day of the month, the very last chicken in Bech lost a spirited sprint with a hungry GI, and after that Bech became even quieter. It was a very superior spot in which to sweat out the war -- which would be ending soon, if you could believe the papers. Mail was regular, PX rations were free, and passes were becoming quite frequent. Yes, Bech was a nice place -- THEN.

During November the Battalion fired 2,339 rounds on 375 missions as follows: 228 harassing, 50 infantry targets, 5 enemy OP's, 2 enemy convoys, 2 high burst registrations, 40 enemy batteries, 20 preparation and support missions, 2 calibrations, 6 railway trains, 14 CP registrations using ground observation, 4 CP registrations using sound, 1 high burst registration (flash), and 1 marking target.

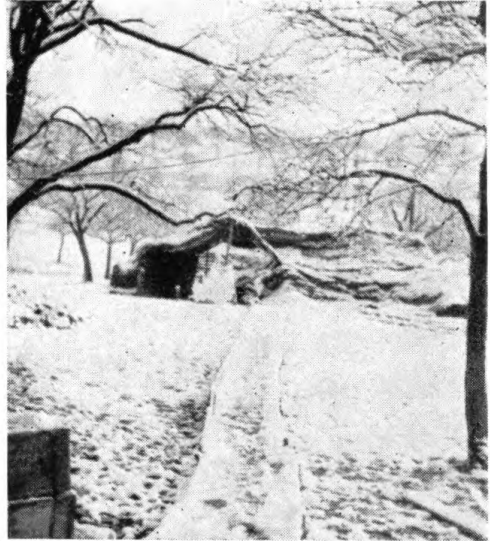
THE BULGE

1 December, 1944 - 31 December, 1944

RAIN and cold continued during the early part of December and added considerably to the hazards of operations and increased the discomfort of the men. To relieve the monotony of routine defensive firing and some experimental firing, a comprehensive orientation course was initiated, supplemented by regular garrison inspections. Schools on all subjects, including crater analysis, were conducted for all men and officers. Life for the most part was very boring, but the danger of warfare was ever present.

At approximately 2300 hours on the night of 2 December, while firing a harassing mission, Pfc. Hubert M. Callaly of "A" Battery was struck in the face and chest by the recoil of his gun and had to be evacuated to the hospital.

Orders were received on 3 December relieving the 422 F.A. Group (to which we were attached) from the 83rd Inf. Div., which was being relieved in this sector, and attaching it to the 4th Inf. Div. which was taking over. The 83rd Inf. Div. had been occupying this relatively quiet sector and was being sent to a more active front; the 4th Inf. Div. had just fought through the punishing Hurtgen Forest Campaign and was being moved into this sector for a rest. The Division was badly under strength and was being gradually filled up with green replacements (or "reinforcements" as they were coming to be known) who were to receive their initial combat experience here in this quiet sector. The equipment of the Division was in bad condition and much of it was in for repairs. The Division artillery did not come with the Division but remained in its old



Battery B camouflaged gun position at Bech, Luxembourg.

positions until the artillery of the 83rd Division could be moved into the sector the 83rd was to occupy. As a result of the shortage of artillery in our sector we received more fire missions, and from 3 to 6 December many missions were fired on targets of opportunity, interdiction, and on harassing targets. Enemy patrols became more active during this period, too, as they had become aware of the change of the units on their front. They were attempting to gain intelligence information as to the number and the strength of the units opposing them.

We accumulated much intelligence information at our OP's during this period. S/Sgt. Archie H. Stinson of "C" Battery, for instance, reported on 6 December that numerous hay wagons were entering a wooded area in the vicinity of Eisenach, Germany. Later, careful observation identified these wagons as camouflaged tanks.

Reports of activities such as these, though they seemed harmless at the time, proved to be very important in the near future. We sensed that a great deal of activity was going on across the river that had not been there before, and accordingly redoubled our security measures.

"B" and "C" Batteries closed in their newly prepared gun positions on 11 and 12 December. The new fields of fire for "A" Battery's center line was compass 1500, for "B" -- 800, for "C" -- 6400. Log cabins had been erected in the new positions for living quarters, and the guns had been well dug in and fortified. After occupying the new positions, we settled down for the winter, in accordance with the newly published "Winterization Program."

Able OP near Mansdorf was attacked on 13 December by small arms fire from a strong enemy combat patrol and forced to withdraw to the Battalion area. This was the first inscription of the handwriting on the wall.

Cloudy, foggy weather closed down on the whole front. Rain fell constantly, and observation was limited to several hundred yards. Since the infantry on our front was so badly under strength, it was impossible to send out adequate patrols so that our intelligence information was practically nil.

Wheeee -- Blam! The opening round of the heaviest shelling the Battalion ever suffered began at 0625 hours, on the morning of 16 December, 1944. The first round landed near Service Battery, and the Personnel Section and Service Battery took off for the cellar. They lit out the back door on the double, but when they hit the icy steps an impromptu Keystone comedy was enacted on the spot. Skidding forms piled up thick in the yard, and each one trying to extricate itself from the mass, scramble to its feet, and make for the safety of the

potato bin. The second round landed near the Battalion switchboard and blew out all communications. T/5 D. F. Kenney calmly remained at his post and attempted to renew communications, although falling plaster, dirt, and flying glass sifted down the neck of his field jacket. The third round landed in the rear of the Battalion CP, and the CP personnel butted heads about like a herd of goats all trying to get down those narrow steps into the cellar at the same time!

Seconds later the whole world seemed to explode as volley after volley from several enemy battalions of artillery landed in the town simultaneously. Windows flew out, plaster showered down on the crouching occupants of the cellars, and shell fragments winged their way through the walls of the houses seeking targets. One round landed near the Battalion radio car and riddled the top of the car, but T/4 Michael Ukrainiec, the operator, was uninjured. This heavy shelling continued steadily until 0740 hours.

At the time the attack began Lt. Col. M. A. Langley was on pass and Major H. P. Snyder was acting as the Battalion commander. When the shelling abated somewhat, Major Snyder went out to survey the damage, expecting to see burning buildings, wrecked vehicles, and dead and wounded men. After a thorough inspection the damage was summed up to be one liaison plane destroyed and communication lines cut. No personnel were injured, although approximately 250 rounds of light, medium, and heavy artillery had fallen directly into the area.

Pfc. Leonard A. Ritter, of "B" Battery, had the narrowest escape of anyone when a shell fragment struck him in the chest, pierced his shirt, and lodged in a notebook he was carrying in his pocket. He missed a Purple Heart by about one-fourth inch and suffered only a slight bruise.

All available men were immediately put to work repairing the wire. Survey sections, wire men, cannon-eers, maintenance sections, clerks, and cooks worked on the wire in spite of the occasional rounds that still fell in the area. Pvt. Eugene Pentecost and Pvt. Robert H. Novotni were wounded by one of these rounds while they were working on the wire, but they refused first aid until communications had been restored. Both were only slightly wounded and returned to duty after receiving treatment. Within 30 minutes the wire was back in and the Battalion was once again a compact fighting unit.

Lt. Arthur A. Sudbrink of "C" Battery, in spite of heavy shelling, was able to occupy his OP with the assistance of his OP party, and was able to place accurate and destructive fire upon German troops who could be seen quite plainly across the Sauer River in the vicinity of Echternach. "C" Battery wire section under Cpl. Howard W. Myers did a good job on restoring the OP line although several artillery concentrations landed almost on them while they were at work. Crater-analysis teams got busy on their work and brought their results into the CP for a final check. Just as about three teams were checking their results a shell burst right outside the window of the CP and several fragments came in for analysis of their own accord. No one was hurt but neither did anyone care for such close cooperation.

At 1200 hours an infantryman from the infantry company CP in Lauterborn appeared at the OP with a message to be relayed to his Battalion headquarters; the Germans had crossed the river and had surrounded Echternach and Lauterborn, and our troops there were in desperate need of assistance. This message was sent to the CP and, as we had no wire communication with the infantry regimental CP at Consdorf, T/5

Harry Grundy, headquarters clerk, and Pfc. James H. Elliot, driver, volunteered to deliver the message to the infantry CP. The situation at Consdorf and the location of the enemy was uncertain at that time, but in spite of artillery fire falling all around them T/5 Grundy and Pfc. Elliot got the message through and returned to our CP. Then another message for the infantry came through, and again T/5 Grundy and Pfc. Elliot delivered it although they knew that Consdorf was under heavy mortar fire. Neither of the men were injured although two mortar rounds landed close enough to throw dirt and to knock wires down on them.

Lieutenant Sudbrink with his OP party attempted to move his position so that he could direct fire on the Germans on our side of the river, but he was pinned down by enemy fire. The OP was partially surrounded by German infantry at about 1600 hours and requested permission to withdraw. Permission was granted, and a relief party under Capt. Kenneth G. Klein was sent to help the OP party fight its way out if necessary. The relief party met Lieutenant Sudbrink and his party, however, on the way; they had withdrawn without opposition.

The sector of observation covered by "B" and "A" Battery OP's did not include the zone where this action was going on, so their guns could not fire into that section. "C" Battery, therefore, was the only artillery firing to break up the German attack. Since another attack was expected from the east, permission could not be granted to swing another battery around to reinforce the fires of "C" Battery.

Artillery concentrations had been falling in Bech and into the Battalion position intermittently all day long without doing any damage, but at approximately 1630 a heavy concentration fell in the vicinity of "C" Battery kitchen seriously wounding

Lt. Marion C. Cartlidge. Sgt. Harry C. Ducey rushed into the shellfire and carried Lieutenant Cartlidge to safety in the cellar and sent for the medics who, in spite of the heavy shelling, came to his aid immediately. Cpl. Howard W. Myers, who was standing near Lieutenant Cartlidge, was found to be suffering from exhaustion, having been in five heavy concentrations during the day, and was evacuated with Lieutenant Cartlidge.

Just before dark Lts. Eugene V. Poe and L. T. Gray took off in an attempt to register on and destroy the approaches to a German pontoon bridge at Weiterbach. Because of the fading light they were hardly able to see the bridge, but the registration was made and during the night "C" Battery fired 200 rounds on the bridge site. On the following morning air observers from the 422nd F.A. Group reported that the approaches to the bridge had been completely leveled. A German prisoner captured several days later reported that his company of German engineers had been assigned to keep the bridge in operation during that night and had suffered 60 casualties from the fire of "C" Battery.

By nightfall our infantry had either fallen back or was surrounded in the towns it defended, and we had no accurate information on the location of the enemy. The fluid condition of the lines made it necessary for the batteries to outpost their positions to guard against surprise by the enemy and to fight off enemy patrols that might filter through our infantry. T/5 James Herfurth led a patrol consisting of T/5 Fred Devol, Pfc. Donald Bulmahn, Pfc. Paul Mason, Pfc. Leonard Whitaker, and Pvt. Corbert Smith to establish an outpost on the left flank of "A" Battery. The Battery position was under intense shell fire and had been for the past 12 hours. As the patrol reached their post and began to dig in another con-

centration landed. T/5 Herfurth was killed instantly, and Pfc. Bulmahn and Private Smith were wounded by shell fragments. Although wounded in the neck, Private Smith leaped into the truck, turned it around, picked up the other men, and drove them out of that area. Private Smith was treated and evacuated to the hospital and Pfc. Bulmahn was treated and returned to duty. T/5 Herfurth had been a member of the Battalion since 1942.

On 17 December, "B" Battery was ordered to move to a position from which they could fire on the enemy to the west of Echternach. They occupied a position one mile south of Bech and laid on compass 5200. Shortly after arriving in position a request for fire from Combat Command A of the 9th Armored Division came to FDC, and "B" fired the mission. Although this Combat Command was far out of our normal zone, fire was delivered at their request several times. Later in the day, "C" Battery was forced to shift back into its old position in Bech because of the infiltration of enemy patrols.

At 1330 hours a forward observation patrol left Bech to attempt to gain observation of the town of Osweiler which was under heavy attack by the Germans. Lt. Francis J. Kraemer with his driver, Cpl. Russel F. Meese, and radio operator, Pvt. Thomas D. Neale, in the lead vehicle were followed by a $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton WC, manned by T/5 Elmer L. Lehmkuhl, T/5 Carl L. Gruendl, Pfc. Charles E. Noble, T/5 Franklin E. Tatum, Pfc. Harold T. Mattern, Pvt. Stanley L. Campbell, and Pvt. Henry P. Coker, proceeded to Consdorf to the infantry CP. Immediately following their arrival at the infantry CP, a runner came in with the information that the Germans had taken Berdorf and were at that moment on the outskirts of Consdorf. The regimental commander organized the town's defenses, and Lieutenant Kraemer with Private

Neale took up position in a house at one end of the town to direct artillery fire. T/5 Gruendl, and Privates Mattern and Campbell acted as messengers between the OP and the artillery liaison officer, and ran back and forth under continual artillery and mortar fire with fire commands. By using the heavy artillery fire of this Battalion in direct support of the infantry, the town was held until late in the afternoon when help came up. Additional infantry supported by tanks arrived, consolidated the position, and later drove the Germans back to Berdorf, and later out of Berdorf. Private Neale showed the utmost coolness in keeping radio communications under fire.

Lt. Col. M. A. Langley returned to duty on 18 December and led a 30-man patrol made up from the Battalion personnel to assist the 22nd Infantry's Regimental Cannon Company to withdraw from its position after it had been surrounded by the enemy. Upon the completion of this mission this patrol returned to the CP where they discovered a force of five medium tanks, whose mission was the relief of an infantry company in Geyserhof. The tanks were being held up by enemy bazooka men in a wooded area a few hundred yards north of Bech. The patrol immediately escorted the tanks to Geyserhof, sweeping the woods on each side of the road as infantrymen to prevent the tanks being ambushed. The infantry company was relieved. Then, as we had received the information that the Germans were on three sides of Bech and within 1,500 yards of the CP, a request was sent to the infantry for help in holding the town.

Information was then received that the Germans were attacking in the direction of Bech, and "B" and "C" Batteries pulled one gun out of position, and placed all guns so they commanded the roads coming into Bech. Luckily for the Germans no tanks

appeared. If they had they would probably have witnessed the use of 155mm. guns SP as anti-tank weapons. Captain Smith of the 22nd Inf. Reg. reported to the Battalion CP with 100 infantrymen late in the afternoon to aid in the defense of Bech.

A Headquarters Battery wire truck received a direct hit from an enemy shell while it was parked in front of the Battery mess hall on 19 December. No one was injured, but the truck was completely destroyed and another was damaged by shell fragments. On the same day "B" Battery also had a truck damaged by shell fire and Pfc. Glenn L. Carlson was slightly wounded in the leg. He was, however, not evacuated.

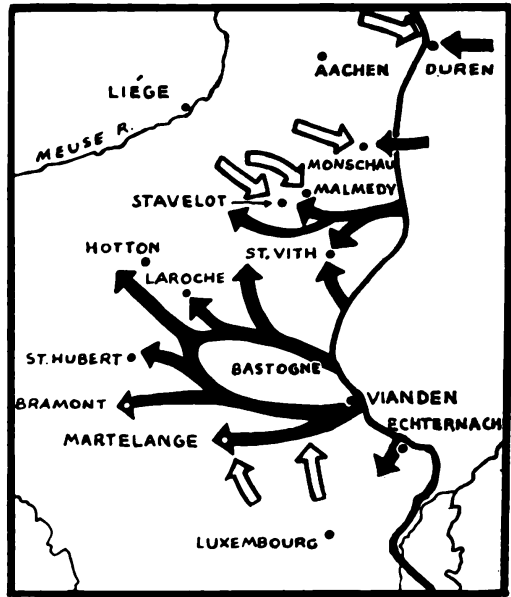
At 1500 hours, while returning to the Battalion area from the OP, Lt. Harry Brooks of "B" Battery and his OP party, consisting of S/Sgt. Dominic Villano, T/5 Elmer L. Lehmkuhl, Cpls. Russel F. Meese and Clifton E. Sumerall, and Pvt. Clifford J. Guidry, T/5 Lloyd E. Wahl, Pfc. Edward A. McCarthy, and Pvt. Waldon Hawk were ambushed by the enemy and forced to abandon their vehicles. Lieutenant Brooks and T/5 Lehmkuhl crawled out of the enemy fire, found two medium tanks and a half track, and brought them up to clear the road. The leading tank was hit and partially disabled by a German bazooka and was forced to withdraw. The second tank was knocked out by the bazooka, and the half track in which Lieutenant Brooks and T/5 Lehmkuhl were riding was also knocked out. Again they had to crawl out of the enemy fire. By skirting the woods containing the ambush Lieutenant Brooks and T/5 Lehmkuhl were able to make their way to the infantry CP at Consdorf. A task force of two light tanks, one medium tank, and six half tracks was led to the scene but because of intense enemy fire and approaching darkness the situation was not relieved.

S/Sgt. Villano and Pfc. McCarthy managed to elude the Germans and made their way back into friendly territory, although S/Sgt. Villano was slightly wounded.

Corporals Meese and Sumerall, Pfc. Guidry, T/5 Wahl, and Private Hawk were pinned down in a ditch by MG fire, Cpl. Sumerall and Private Hawk were wounded. The party crawled down a ditch and on into the nearby woods, but on arrival they discovered that Cpl. Sumerall was not among them, and had last been seen in the ditch where he was wounded. Corporal Meese assumed command of the Party and dispersed them about the woods until relief could arrive. The party remained in its position all night, and upon several occasions the Germans walked within two yards of them without finding them. During the night Private Hawk, who was painfully wounded in the arm, showed great fortitude in maintaining silence and not giving away the location of his companions. At daylight Corporal Meese led the party safely to our front lines, and Private Hawk was evacuated to the hospital. A search of the area was made on 20 December, but no trace of Cpl. Sumerall was found, and he was dropped from the rolls as missing in action.

Reinforcements began to arrive to help stave off the German thrust at Luxembourg. Two whole companies of engineers poured through Bech on the way to the front lines and we felt that at last the war was won. But the enemy kept pushing on in spite of heavy loss of men. "C" Battery fired on an enemy tank attack, and in 20 minutes they expended 108 rounds. No tanks were reported destroyed, but the attack was smashed, and the tanks were forced to withdraw without having accomplished anything.

One of our OP parties at Michelshof helped a TD outfit defend the road crossing and got to see an enemy



*The "Bulge" December 16 - 23
The first stage of the German drive
began on Dec. 16 when tanks ad-
vanced out of the Siegfried Line.*

infantry attack ripped to pieces by our fire. The batteries fired on this attack at the almost pointblank range of 3,000 yards using fuze delay, and the ricochets were laying the Germans in windrows. A later count gave us 256 dead Jerry's.

The insecurity of our position made it necessary to post guards around the positions every night to prevent surprise by the Germans. The guards around the Battalion CP were continually subjected to heavy artillery fire, and although no one was injured there were many close calls from fragments from tree bursts.

The 5th Inf. Div. began to arrive after a long forced march from the south and almost immediately passed to the attack. We fired a preparation for them to the east of Michelshof, using fuze quick and firing into the trees. Lt. Ralph W. Word accompanied the infantry as a forward observer and upon passing through the area subjected to our fire reported that hundreds of Germans had been killed by the tree bursts.

Cpl. Donald W. Carter, Battalion agent drove day and night delivering messages between the Battalion CP and Group CP, as the wire communications were shot out frequently. The road between the two installations was under constant shellfire, but Corporal Carter ignored this danger and dashed back and forth whenever needed. Lt. Kenneth E. Markham, while accompanying the infantry, had a "Screaming Mimi" explode in the room next to him in a schoolhouse in Dickweiler. Although no one was injured, he got a preview of the damage that could be expected from one of those shells.

The 4th Inf. Div. Artillery next began to arrive. One battery came into Bech and occupied positions near "B" Battery, and took some of the firing load off our shoulders.

On 24 December, T/5 Ralph L. Greene was wounded in the left leg by shell fragments.

The Battalion received Troop Assignment Order No. 130 Hq. 12 Army Group, dated 21 December, 1944, on 24 December. This order assigned the organization to the Third U. S. Army, effective as of 21 December. The German attack had split the VIII Corps, pushing the bulk of the Corps back to the west and leaving the 4th Inf. Div. and the attached troops in place. Because of the large gap, the Third Army took over the units on the south side of the Bulge.

On 25 December, 1944, the Battalion received orders, Troop Assignment Order, A-77 Hq. Third U. S. Army, dated 22 December, 1944, attaching the organization to XII Corps, effective as of 22 December. The mission of the Battalion was general support of the XII Corps. This reassignment was necessary because VIII Corps had almost ceased to exist as a fighting unit. The VIII Corps had borne the brunt of Von Rundstedt's attack, and we were now separated from VIII Corps Headquarters by about half

the German army.

A total of 4,057 rounds were fired during the week ending 23 December, and a total of 844 rounds were fired on 22 December. This was the largest number of rounds fired by the Battalion in any one day during the war.

On the night of 25 December, Pfc. Verner M. Adams of "A" Battery sent the Germans their Christmas present when he pulled the lanyard that sent the 20,000th combat round for the Battalion crashing into the German lines. The gun used for the round was that of Sgt. Leonard Sampert whose section consisted of: Cpl. Roy Manske, Pfc. Verner Adams, Pfc. Harold A. Helin, Privates Joseph Casiglia, Elmer O. Mills and Clarence M. Peterson, T/5 John L. Gillin, Pvt. Thomas F. Kennedy, T/4 Marvin R. Smith, and T/5 Lester A. Henne.

Reinforcement then began to arrive in strength. "A" Battery was pulled in from Berbourg and placed in position near Bech. The entire 5th Inf. Div. came to reinforce the 4th Inf. Div., which was by now badly mauled. Artillery from the XII Corps arrived and new units moved in daily. The hills around Bech became ringed with artillery. The night was constantly aflame with the flashes of the friendly artillery, and the concussion of this mass of artillery shook out the remaining windows in town and caused the shell-battered buildings to collapse. The Battalion wire sections put in wire communications to everyone who came in, and within several days we had more wires coming into our switchboard than we could accommodate. With each new unit our fire grew heavier, and the heavier our fire, the weaker the German attacks. The lines swayed back and forth; then we passed to the attack and slowly but surely began to drive the enemy back to the river.

The men of this Battalion can al-

ways be proud of the stand we made in Bech, Luxembourg. A captured document showed that one of the forks of the German drive had intended to pass directly over our position at Bech with the mission of capturing Luxembourg City and advance on to Verdun, France. Let all praise and glory be extended the 4th Inf. Div., but let it always be remembered also that the 174th F.A. Bn. was the only artillery able to fire in this heroic stand. And through the effective fire of the 174th F.A. Bn., the 4th Division was able to hold. The stand made by the few men in this sector thwarted the whole German plan in the south and weakened the whole salient that was pushed into the American lines. Following is an editorial from *Stars and Stripes*, of 4 February, 1945, which describes the importance of this stand.

LUXEMBOURG WAS

NAZI TARGET!

But Five Key Cross Roads And A Bunch of Yanks . . . Presented A Grim Defense That Neatly Crossed Him Up

By Ralph Harwood
Warweek Staff Writer

A high-ranking soldier's soldier who has never been given to the idle niceties of speech-making recently paid tribute to the leadership and men of the Fourth Infantry Division in a message to the Ivy Leaf outfit's commander. Wrote Lieut. Gen. George Smith Patton to Maj. Gen. Raymond O. Barton:

"Your fight in the Hurtgen Forest was an epic of stark infantry combat; but, in my opinion, your most recent fight—from the 16th to the 26th of December—when, with a depleted and tired division, you halted the left shoulder of the German thrust into the American lines and saved the city of Luxembourg and the supply establishments and road nets in the vicinity, is the most outstanding accomplishment of yourself and your

division."

A glance at the map is enough to show what a big deal for the Germans the capture of that city would have been. It would have provided Van Rundstedt with the ideal southern hinge for his westward drive. A lot of convenient highways fan out from the city into northern France.

Then, too, every newspaper in Germany would have crowed over the retaking of such a prize. And even though the panzers would have had to back-pedal out of Belgium anyway, though the city had fallen, it is a bloody and time-taking business to throw the enemy out of a place the size of Luxembourg, if he fully defends it.

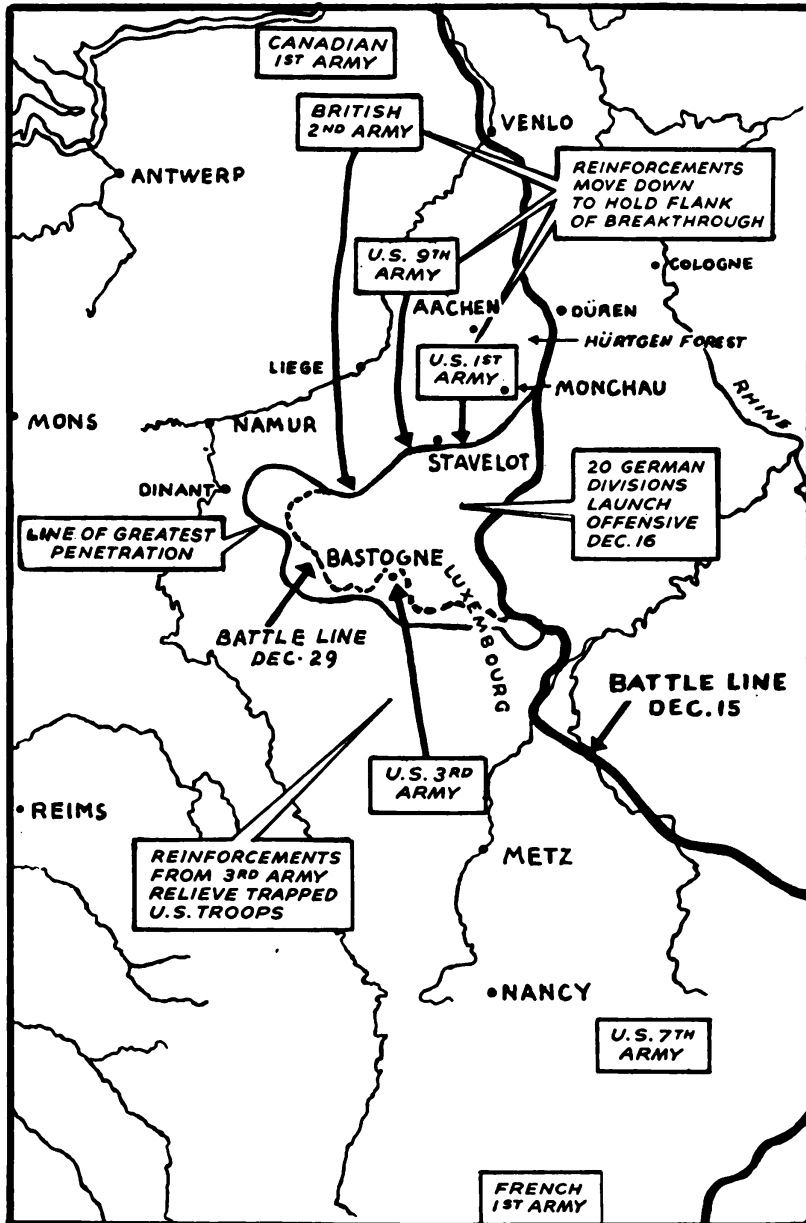
Not that the men of the 12th Infantry Regiment who were strung out in holding positions along the friendly side of the Sauer River were particularly concerned with the fact that they were guarding the approaches to a very important city some 25 or 30 kilometers to the southwest. Even after the shooting abruptly started at 0530 the morning of December 16, and they knew for sure they were in for something big, it is doubtful if very many gave their responsibility much thought.

Digs In . . . and Fights

That's the way it is with the American soldier. There is very little girding of loins and pledging to do or die about him. He simply digs in the face of a bad situation and fights. If you ask him why he fights, he will tell you in all probability that it's largely because there's a war on.

If you venture something about the noble ideals and larger aims of the war, like maybe making the world safe for democracy, he will tell you that he is primarily interested in killing Germans for the sake of making the world safer at that particular moment for himself and a few other guys off to the left and the right a little ways. If democracy cares to ride

THE BULGE



The German Bulge.

Three German armies pushed through the thinly held center of the Allied line forcing four Allied armies to divert troops from main drives toward the Ruhr and the Saar.

along on each shot, however, that's all right, too, as long as it doesn't get in the way. This attitude never ceases to be a worrisome thing to heavy thinkers in and out of the army. It also beats the hell out of the Germans.

The 12th principal defenses at the

time of the German attack were set up at five main road junctions south and west of the Sauer. These defenses consisted of company positions commanding the routes to the city of Luxembourg. By stubbornly holding these road-block positions, even though all were by-passed and sur-

rounded early in the attack, the hard-hit American troops prevented a flood of German armor and equipment from rolling on the city.

Cooks, Drivers Pitch In

At Echternach, from which town a principal highway runs direct to Luxembourg City, a company of the 12th Infantry was situated. The Command Post was located in the basement of a factory, and an observation post was set up on top.

Heavy artillery barrage which the enemy began to lay over the entire sector at 0530 that morning continued without letup for two hours. Immediately after it was lifted, enemy movement in strength toward the river was observed. German elements quickly infiltrated Echternach, and others passed around it. By 1030 the town was surrounded. The company ordered its platoons to pull in around the main CP.

A rectangular defense was formed, covering two blocks. Before this defense could be completed, however, the Germans tried to rush a large garage which housed the company vehicles and the kitchen. The assault was beaten off by cooks and drivers with the help of one jeep-mounted .30 machine-gun placed in the doorway.

Situation Critical

When this effort had completely miscarried for the over-enthusiastic Krauts, the company went ahead with its defensive scheme, although one platoon was unable to draw in, having been isolated by enemy forces. As night came, the besieged troops remained as quiet as possible, using only grenades so as not to reveal their positions.

For the better part of three days the Germans made no concerted attempt to reduce the American position, apparently believing the surrounded men would lose heart and give up without a showdown fight.

Finally, however, the German command ordered the reduction of Echternach

at all costs and, on the night of the 19th, an extremely heavy attack employing tanks, bazookas, mortars and machine-guns was launched. The CP took rocket hit after hit. The situation became increasingly critical with mounting casualties and dwindling ammunition supplies.

Lt. Richard L. Cook, of Portage, Wis., and one enlisted man made a break out of the town in a jeep, running a gauntlet of fire down the main highway, nicknamed Bowling Alley Road, and having a blast from a tank miss them at almost pointblank range. But help was not available. The company was ordered to come out.

Echternach Had Fallen

But the company could not come out, although the last message from them indicated they were trying to fight through. The time of the message was 1225 the 20th, more than four days after the German attack had started.

A captured German document dated the 20th stated: "With the capture of Echternach order for today the battalion achieved full success. Echternach is in our hands. . . . 116 American prisoners were taken . . . The success brought the citation of the Commanding General and the Division Commander, and restored the battalion's former reputation."

At Lauterborn, a few kilometers down Bowling Alley Road toward Luxembourg, "G" Company and the Anti-Tank Platoon of the 2nd Battalion of the 12th Infantry made their stand. Two heavy attacks on this position were repulsed, one on the 16th, and the other on the 20th, before the Americans were ordered to withdraw.

The defense at Lauterborn was marked by one heroic action after another on the part of individual soldiers. S/Sgt. George A. Cline, supply sergeant of "G" Company from Naugatuck, W. Va., was an outstanding example. Between the 16th and the

20th he made no fewer than 15 round trips between Lauterborn and Consdorf, using every type of vehicle available, from jeep to light tank. The trips were made to evacuate wounded and bring in ammunition, communications, supplies, medicine and water. The Germans must have gotten to know Cline pretty well as he repeatedly ran their fire on his shuttle service.

From Luxury To Hell

Over where the AT platoon held its position commanding the road that branches off to Consdorf from the main highway, the Graves Registration detail picked up 35 German dead. These were only the ones the enemy was unable to recover.

Late on the night of the 20th, "A" Company of the 12th, supported by a platoon of light tanks from the 70th Tank Battalion, fought its way to the Lauterborn positions. The two infantry companies, plus the AT platoon and the tanks, then fought back to form a section of the main line of resistance set up through a point slightly south of Lauterborn.

At Berdorf, to the west of Echter-nach, "F" Company had located its CP in the modern Parc Hotel. On the 15th of December headquarters personnel were enjoying the unaccustomed luxury of steam heat, radios in every room and real beds, complete with linen. By evening of the following day, however, the place had changed in appearance considerably, with cooks, runners and supply men joining riflemen, machine-gunners and bazooka teams to defend the building from every window.

Under cover of fog and darkness the enemy managed to work up and dig in within feet of the hotel, as well as to occupy buildings nearby. Hundreds of hits by artillery, rocket and mortar gradually reduced the American strongpoint to a rubble-filled shell. Beaten back by day, the Germans, ignoring losses, returned at

night close enough to fire bazookas into the building and, in one case, to place a pole or satchel charge along the wall.

In one afternoon 1/Sgt. Gerveis Willis, of Augusta, Ga., and Sgt. Norman Finan, of Detroit, killed more than 20 Germans with BAR fire. The whole of the hectic, five-day defense at Berdorf was marked by this self-same heroism and fast thinking which helped take the steam from the German punch.

Fought Three More Days

On the evening of the 21st, 1/Lt. John N. Leake, of Keokuk, Iowa, commander of "F" Company, received orders to retire to the new defense line to the south. In a fast break and a running fire fight he led his men for 800 yards to a point where they could ride out on tanks and half-tracks of the 10th Armored Division.

Taking up position immediately in the MLR, without blankets or overcoats at first, the weary, erstwhile defenders of Berdorf fought on steadily for three more days, helping to repel the German attack of the 22nd on Consdorf.

The villages of Osweiler and Dickweiler, over on the right wing of the 12th Infantry's sector, were held by "L" and "I" companies, respectively, throughout the attack and formed the eastern anchor of the main line of resistance established on the 20th. At Osweiler, 1/Lt. Cornelius R. O'Donnell, of Buffalo, N. Y., CO of "L" Company, pulled in his platoons when the attack opened, losing only one outpost of 11 men.

Closest Kind of Siege

A defense was organized in strategic buildings astride the main crossroad. Thereafter, the company suffered out 12 casualties, although the Germans threw in more than a thousand rounds of artillery fire a day from the 16th to the 25th, and managed to infiltrate some buildings of the town in the closest kind of a

siege.

Here again headquarters personnel pitched in with whatever weapons were at hand and helped beat off the Kraut. In spite of their extra-curricular activities however, the company cooks continued to serve hot chow at least once a day straight through, and to have hot coffee every morning for the men.

Dickweiler was assaulted first at 1100 on the 16th. following the heavy German barrage. The enemy, in approximately two-company strength, was thrown back by "I" Company under the command of 1/Lt. Alexander J. Davit, of Haddonfield, N. J. When the Krauts tried it again that afternoon, the men of "I" Company were really ready for them.

Mortars were angled to catch the reverse slope of the hill over which the Germans had to approach. Riflemen were set to pick off the leading men in the enemy attack. Three tanks were placed so as to lay sweeping machine-gun fire farther up the forward slope of the hill. Holding fire until the Germans were fully committed to their attack, every part of the defense cut loose at once. The attack was completely smeared, and 35 prisoners, including a company commander, were taken.

Lt. Davit learned from the captured officer that the German plan had called for the taking of Osweiler and Dickweiler the first day of the attack so that the panzers could get through to the south. The fact that the Germans were never able to take these two points of strategic resistance, and only got Echternach, Lauterborn and Berdorf after it was too late, saved the city of Luxembourg.

After the arrival of reinforcements, General Barton of the 4th Inf. Div., commended his men for the gallant action they had fought and also commended the attached troops. The CO of the 422nd F.A. Group commended

the Battalion very highly.

Intelligence reports received indicated that this Battalion had been under counter-battery fire from 18 enemy artillery battalions. We had been reading in the paper and hearing over the radio that the Germans did not have anything left except a few old guns they had salvaged from the War of 1870, and if the gun did not blow up when it fired, the shell would be a dud when it landed. The news commentators must have been very wrong because the Battalion was under constant counter-battery fire during the first ten days of the battle. Rounds dropped over and short on all batteries so often the men began to ignore them and continue working even when being shelled. Only three duds were observed during the shelling.

One night Lt. William R. Mosby, Executive of "C" Battery, had just called out all cannoneers to widen the gun pits for more traverse, when a shell struck the Fourth Section hut and destroyed everything in it. No one was hurt because they were all outside working; that was one time a bunch of jittery GI's were glad they hadn't been goldbricking.

From 16 to 26 December the Battalion fired 6,289 rounds—half as many rounds as we had fired during the whole of the preceding period of the war!

At 2,300 hours, 27 December, the Battalion received orders from the commanding officer, 422nd F.A. Group, that the Battalion was relieved from attachment to the XII Corps and was attached to the reorganized VIII Corps.

We moved from Bech, Luxembourg, at 0700 hours, 28 December, to a bivouac area in the vicinity of Anlier, Belgium. The movement began in a heavy frost and fog with the temperature well below freezing, and it ended in a heavy snowfall.

The commanding officer, 422nd F.

A. Group issued orders that this organization was to reinforce the fires of the 28th Inf. Div., and that a reconnaissance for position in the vicinity of Neufchateau, Belgium, would be made 29 December.

At Molinfaing, Belgium, 29 December, orders from the commanding officer, 422nd F.A. Group, placed the Battalion in general support of the 11th Armored Division which had just reached the Continent and had made a long forced march to join the battle. While positions were being selected in the vicinity of Semel, Belgium, the 4th Armored Division was seen passing up the road pushing their attack for the relief of Bastogne.

At about midnight, while in position near Semel, several enemy parachutists landed near the Battalion CP, and Sgt. John Hutnik, Motor Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, killed one with a .50 caliber MG at a range of 350 yards. T/4 Howard G. Hodge and Pfc. James H. Carrigan, Headquarters Battery, captured another 300 yards from the Battalion CP. T/5 Delzel F. Kenney, Headquarters Battery switchboard operator, was commended by his battery commander, Capt. William P. Morris, for

the tenacity of purpose and the fortitude he had displayed during the period 16 to 20 December in maintenance of communication despite constant enemy shellfire.

The Battalion, less Service Battery, occupied a position in the vicinity of Ourt, Belgium, on 30 December, and on 31 December, 1944, made a night march over snow-covered and icy roads to Remience, Belgium, where it occupied a position in general support of the 11th Armored Division.

During the month of December 8,403 rounds were fired on the following missions; harassing missions 313, enemy batteries 153, Nebelwerfers 10, infantry targets 91, interdiction 20, enemy CP's 4, preparation 9, enemy tanks 16, counter-attacks 8, CP registrations (air) 10.

Five Bronze Stars were awarded during December and 2 Certificates of Merit.

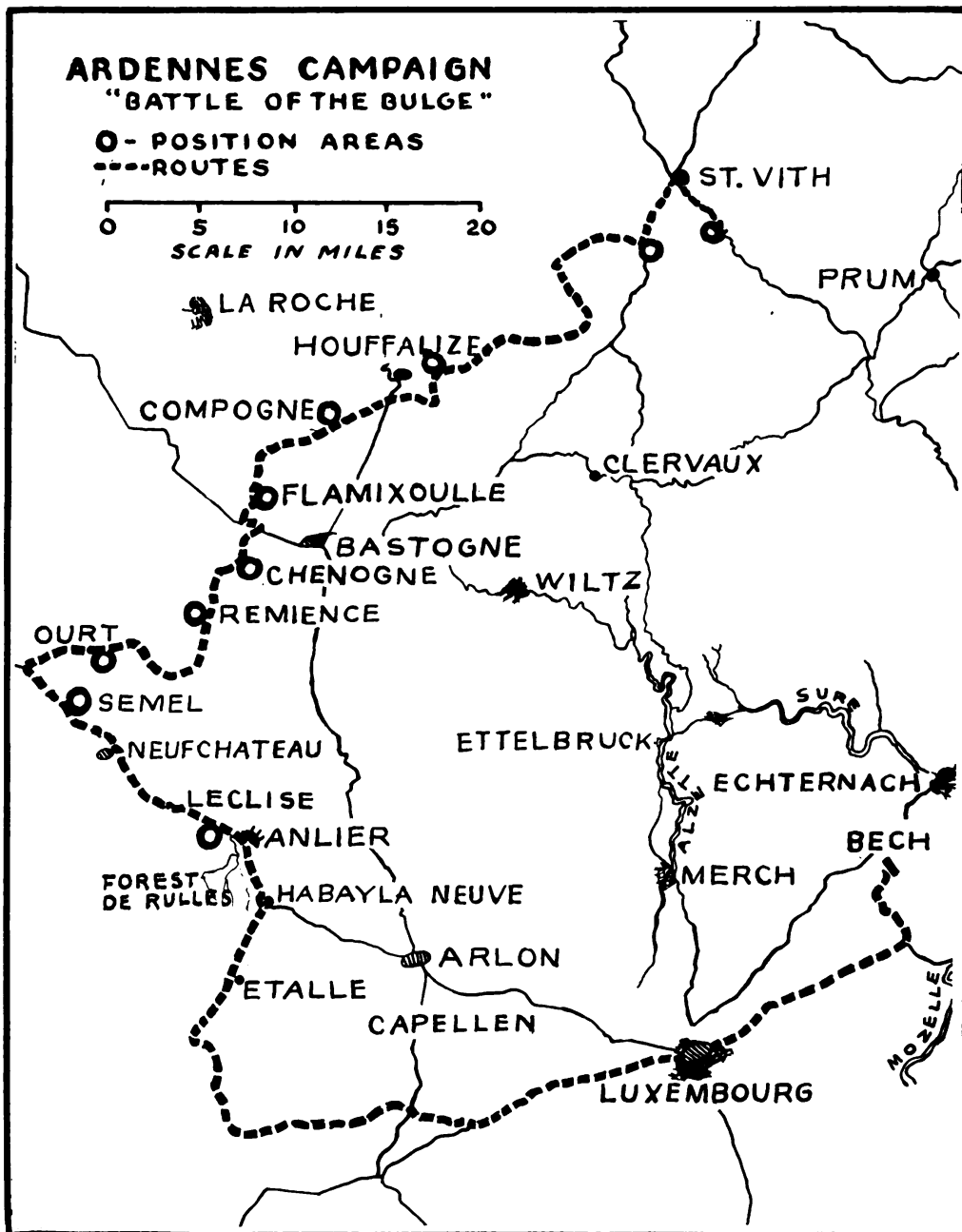
T/5 Benjamin H. Pickett, Jr., and Pfc. Theodore Satoe, wounded at Avranches, returned to duty on 31 December.

Casualties for December were the highest ever suffered by the Battalion for any one action:

Name	Nature of Casualty	Date	Battery
T/5 James F. Herfurth	KIA Shell fragments	Dec. 16	A
Pfc. Hubert M. Callaly	SWA Gun recoil	Dec. 2	A
1st Lt. Marion C. Cartlidge	SWO Shell fragments	Dec. 16	C
Pvt. Charles W. Shaw	LWA Shell fragments	Dec. 16	C
Pvt. Corbert K. Smith	LWA Shell fragments	Dec. 16	A
Pvt. Robert F. Hartin	LWA Shell fragments	Dec. 16	B
Pfc. Glenn L. Carlson	LWA Shell fragments	Dec. 16	B
Cpl. Howard W. Myers	Exhaustion	Dec. 16	C
Pvt. Eugene Pentecost	LWA Shell fragments	Dec. 16	Hq.
Pvt. Robert H. Novotni	LWA Shell fragments	Dec. 16	Hq.
Sgt. Eugene C. Stovall	LWA Shell fragments	Dec. 16	C
Pfc. Donald L. Buhlmann	LWA Shell fragments	Dec. 16	A
T/4 Leopold Vokal	SWA Shell fragments	Dec. 17	C
Pfc. Joseph Levinskas	SWA Shell fragments	Dec. 17	C
T/4 Alton C. Fox	LWA Shell fragments	Dec. 17	B
Pfc. Robert O. Collum	LWA Shell fragments	Dec. 17	B
Pvt. John N. Laurendeau	LWA Shell fragments	Dec. 17	Hq.
Cpl. Stanley J. Cousineau	LWA Shell fragments	Dec. 17	Hq.

W E D I D

Name	Nature of Casualty	Date	Battery
S/Sgt. Dominic Villano	LWA Small arms	Dec. 18	B
Pvt. Walton Hawk	LWA Small arms	Dec. 18	B
Pfc. Cyril M. Foote	LWA Shell fragments	Dec. 19	A



THE REDUCTION OF THE BULGE

1 January, 1945 - 31 January, 1945

THE real battle for the reduction of Von Rundstedt's Bulge began while we were in position in the small Belgian village of Remience. When we reached Remience it lay under a blanket of snow and ice. The pine-covered slopes that surrounded this tiny village of a dozen houses were almost unscarred by the ravages of war except for a few knocked-out trucks and an airplane that had been shot down. Snow fell almost continuously during our stay there and snow drifts made the roads all but impassible. Except for the extremely cold weather and insufficient billets for the men Remience was rather a nice place. It was here that our delayed Christmas packages began to arrive, and many of us celebrated Christmas after all.

While firing in general support of the 11th Armored Division from Remience, the Battalion fired on Maude St. Etienne and was highly complimented on the accuracy and the destructiveness of the concentration.

The personnel of the ammunition trains performed a near miracle in keeping the Battalion supplied with ammunition. They drove night and day over the icy, snow-covered roads, and it was hard work battling a Diamond T over those roads. The hours were long, too, for progress was very slow. But everyone put everything he had into the job at hand, and the ammunition came through.

S/Sgt. Howard A. Brookman, Motor Sergeant of "A" Battery, here demonstrated unusual ingenuity in developing a fuze wrench of superior potentialities, for which he was commended by higher headquarters. Sergeant Brookman built the wrench from salvage material and designed it



"Me nichts Nazi." How quickly they became "good Germans."

to replace the cumbersome issue-wrench for fuzing the new CP T-105 fuze. For this outstanding contribution S/Sgt. Brookman was recommended for the Legion of Merit.

On the morning of 2 January a request was made to the Battalion to fire a heavy harassing mission on enemy movements beyond their lines. A total of 680 rounds was fired 2-3 January. In between this harassing fire, two concentrations of 32 rounds each were fired by "A" and "B" Batteries, which completely stalled two enemy counter-attacks.

The Battalion fired 1,587 rounds in general support of the 11th Armored Division, and when the 11th Armored was relieved by the 17th Airborne Division on 3 January the Battalion was assigned the general support mission for the Airborne.

The German attack had been completely stalled, and the 17th Airborne Division was used as infantry

to push the Germans back from the west side of Bastogne. In preparation for the first attack, the Battalion reconnoitered gun positions in the vicinity of Chenogne, a small village that was the highwater mark of the German advance. The town was utterly destroyed. Dead Germans, Americans, Belgian civilians, cows, horses, and hogs were strewn profusely around the town. A complete battalion of medium artillery had been caught here by the German advance, and their knocked-out guns still stood in their last gun position. Burned Tiger tanks and self-propelled guns gave mute evidence of the heroic last stand of the battalion; 23 enemy tanks littered the fields in front of the guns. American tanks stood in lonely desolation with gaping holes in their sides and turrets, where they had been hit in trying to extricate the artillery battalion from its predicament. Smouldering and ruined buildings made up the entire town. Outraged nature apparently had attempted to repair some of man's destruction by covering the whole scene with six inches of snow. While making the reconnaissance, Capt. Willie L. Scott and Lt. Eugene V. Poe had a narrow escape when a lone 88mm. struck a building within a few yards of them.

Another reconnaissance was made the following day in the vicinity of Lavaselle, Belgium, but no positions were decided on definitely as it was not known what sector the Battalion would have to cover when it moved.

The snow-covered beauty of the scenery gave a false sense of security to the OP personnel. In one instance Cpl. U. Vaughn Copeland, "A" Battery, who had gone forward to occupy a new OP, strolled over to talk to a group of nearby tankers. While "batting the breeze" with this bunch of "Rookies", mortar and sniper fire suddenly covered the area, and Corp. Copeland realized that he

was right in the middle of a tank battle. Seems that he had followed the tanks and half-tracks too closely and too far. The OP personnel was pinned down for most of the day, and if it hadn't been that the weather limited observation, the Germans might have placed a few good shots.

The full extent of Boche brutality and bestiality was brought home to us several times near here. While occupying an OP that was in disputed territory, where the Germans had the ground one day and we the next, one of our OP crews from "A" Battery was given shelter from the cold in the ruins of a Belgian farmhouse whose owner had refused to leave in spite of the Germans. The next day the Germans held that position; the following day we took it back again -- and found the civilians lying dead in the snow where they had been lined up against a wall in a lane and shot.

Refugees streamed past our positions constantly. Old men, women, and children, all ragged, hungry, and cold, wounded and sick, penniless and homeless -- all had to be taken care of in some manner. We gave away our extra food and clothes, tried to give them some shelter, and Lt. Ralph W. Word even put on a Charlie McCarthy show for some of them with a doll that he had taken from a wrecked building.

We all suffered from lack of stoves to keep our tents and barns warm, from insufficient clothing, and from eating frozen "C" rations. Many men became sick with colds, and a few came down with the GI's.

While still at Remience we got our first quota for men to go to the States on a 30-day furlough. We couldn't find anyone who would go, so we finally picked: Cpl. Francis E. Rohan, Pfc. Paul Angrisano, Pvt. Joseph Celis, of "A" Battery; Pfc. Theodore Satoe, Medical Detachment, and T/5 Martin J. Pendrotti, Headquarters Battery. And then we

twisted their arms until they consented! They left on 8 January, 1945. T/5 Manuel L. Green, who was wounded at Bech on 24 December, was evacuated on 5 January.

Lts. Francis J. Kraemer and Harry Brooks, Cpls. Hughie A. Brown, Jr., Rudolf F. Rendef, C. J. Guidry, and Pvts. W. E. White, T. D. Neale, E. S. Brezinski, and S. L. Campbell -- all of "B" Battery -- while occupying an OP, directed fire that knocked out two German medium tanks and caused heavy casualties among the accompanying infantry. This OP was located in the vicinity of Hubermont, Belgium, and was being occupied although visibility was limited to several hundred yards because of a snow storm. Suddenly the snow ceased and left the Germans exposed while massing for an attack. Fire was placed on the German position by both "A" and "B" Batteries. An excerpt from the VIII Corps Artillery Summary of Operations, dated 10 January, 1945, with reference to this fire, reads as follows: "174th Field Artillery Battalion fired on 12 tanks formed for a counter-attack, destroying one tank and dispersing the remainder. Battalion also adjusted on Infantry and 20 tanks knocking out one tank, inflicting several casualties, and causing the remaining tanks to withdraw."

On 11 January one of "A" Battery's tents caught fire, the ammunition inside exploded and wounded Pvt. Norman E. Dingler who was evacuated.

From Wednesday, 9 January to 12 January, the 17th Airborne Division had been holding its lines, and the Battalion during this period had been firing counter-battery, harassing, and interdiction missions. At 1200 hours on 12 January, orders were received from the 422nd F.A. Group that the 11th Armored Division was to attack, 13 January, astride the boundary between the 17th Airborne and the

101st Airborne Divisions, with Houffalize, Belgium, as its objective. The Battalion was given the mission of general support of the Corps and the batteries were to fire into the 17th Airborne sector. We were also designated as an emergency battalion subject to calls for fire direct from VIII Corps Artillery.

At 1700 hours, 12 January, Lt. Arthur A. Sudbrink reported that the 17th Airborne had lost contact with the enemy and indications were that the enemy had withdrawn. On 13 January the Battalion, less Service Battery, occupied positions in the vicinity of Chenogne, Belgium, and at 1500 hours that day orders were received to make a reconnaissance for position in the vicinity of Flami-zoulle, Belgium. The reconnaissance party left, made their reconnaissance, and upon returning to their cars found they were parked in the middle of a mine field that had not been noticed because of the snow on the ground! Unwilling to risk hitting mines by going back the way they had come, an engineer mine-sweeping crew was asked to point out roads that had been cleared. On returning to the area the next morning, two trucks and two tanks had been disabled by mines on the road we had used in the afternoon before which had been marked cleared of mines. Service Battery moved from Semel to Remience.

Battery "C" fired the 25,000th round for the Battalion at Chenogne on 13 January during a registration.

The Battalion, less Service Battery, moved up to positions near Flami-zoulle on 14 January over snow-covered and icy roads. Highway "4" between Bastogne and Marche, which we had to cross to reach our positions, had been the scene of much hard fighting. Shell holes dotted the fields. Bombs had made direct hits on the road. Knocked-out tanks, both German and American, lined the roads and sat in the fields. Burned

vehicles and dead men were thick along the route of march. The Battalion closed into position near Flami-zoulle shortly after noon. The area occupied was one where supplies and paratroopers had been landed for the reenforcement of the garrison at Bastogne, and wrecked gliders and AT guns cluttered up our positions in or near a shell-slashed wooded area.

Orders were received to make a reconnaissance in the vicinity of Compogne, Belgium, the following day, but the reconnaissance could not be carried out in its entirety because enemy resistance stiffened just west of Compogne. The party got to see the jump off of a full-scale tank and infantry attack from Bastogne toward Compogne, and encountered heavy enemy artillery fire while watching from their grandstand seat atop the hill where Bastogne was situated. Pvt. Ray D. Dixon and Pvt. Sidney Goldfine, wounded at Avranches, and S/Sgt. Dominic Villano, wounded at Bech, returned to duty on 15 January, and T/5 Lloyd E. Wahl was evacuated for illness.

The position was reconnoitered and occupied on 16 January. "A" Battery captured a couple of wounded Germans in their position who had been by-passed by the rapidly advancing tanks and infantry. The unit was awarded battle participation credit for the campaign "Northern France" as established by Paragraph 3, Section VI, G.O. 80, War Department, 5 October 1944, while at Compogne.

On 17 January, Service Battery moved from Remience to Salle, Belgium.

Reconnaissance was made for positions near Velleroux, Belgium, and positions were occupied on 18 January. Large numbers of German wooden box mines were found near the positions, but they had failed to function properly because of the cold and were easily uprooted and de-

stroyed. The presence of unset German booby traps, S/A ammunition, mines, artillery ammunition, and mortar ammunition indicated that the enemy had been forced to vacate this position very rapidly. The Battalion CP was located in a mill that had just been vacated by the CP of a "Marchgruppen" of the 26 Volksgrenadier Division. Field Order 2, 26 VG Division, 10 January, 1945, was found in the Battalion CP, and Field Order 1, 5 January, 1945, and Field Order 3, 12 January, 1945, were found nearby and turned into higher headquarters. Cpl. Conio J. Coviello, wounded at Avranches, returned to duty 18 January, 1945.

The snow by now was about two feet deep and the thermometers read zero day and night.

During the night of 21-22 January the Battalion, less Service Battery, made a blackout march over frozen, snow - and ice-covered roads that wound up the sides of steep hills. The tanks slipped and slid on the ice-covered slopes and constantly threatened to plummet their occupants down the precipitous side of the hill. The Battalion finally arrived and occupied position near the small town of Cetturu, Belgium, just before daylight on 22 January.

On 24 January the Battalion, less Service Battery (which at the same time moved from Salle to Mabompre), moved to positions near Halt, in the vicinity of Limerle, Belgium, arriving at 1600 hours after again driving over snow-covered, traffic-filled, and mine-infested roads. The positions occupied were only 300 yards in the rear of the OP! On the following day, Service Battery moved from Mabompre to Cetturu.

The 174th's air cover and fighter support squadron had been somewhat handicapped by the inclement weather and was not able to do much flying. However, pilots and observers had already been going up for the last

month in weather that previously had been considered impossible for flying. While Lt. George G. Lorentz and Lt. Francis J. Kraemer were making a flight on 25 January, their carburetor froze up on them, forcing a crash landing near Beho in the middle of "no man's land." Although the plane turned upside down, neither occupant was injured until Lieutenant Kraemer unbuckled his safety belt and fell on his head! After leisurely gathering up their belongings, they heard someone whistle at them from a patch of woods nearby, and they casually strolled over to see who it was. "Get in here! The Germans are just on the other side of that field," an infantryman told them. They dived into the bushes just ahead of a volley of small arms fire from the Germans, who were probably so surprised at the nonchalant manner of our birdmen -- who acted as if they were twenty miles behind the lines (and they probably thought they were) -- that they had not fired before. The pilot and observer were later returned to the Battalion area by the infantry. This marked the second crash landing for this pair; the other time was when they wrecked the apple orchard in Normandy.

Pvt. Roy Hendricks was transferred to the 422nd F.A. Group.

Orders were received on 26 January for the Battalion to pass to general support reinforcing the fires of the 87th Inf. Div. which was relieving the 17th Airborne Division. Reconnaissance was initiated for positions in the vicinity of Huldange, Luxembourg. About one mile west of Huldange, the column was stopped where a bridge over a small stream was out. While the bridge was being repaired, a vehicle from another unit tried to drive around the bridge site and struck a mine, a fragment of which struck Capt. Blaise S. Jackewicz in almost the identical spot where he had been wounded in Nor-

mandy. The injury, however, was not serious and he did not receive treatment until returning from the reconnaissance. The Battalion, less Service Battery, left Limerle on 27 January and closed in position at 1500 hours.

On 27 January orders were received to reconnoiter positions in the vicinity of Gruflange, Belgium, and Capt. James W. Powers, Pfc. Marvin N. McEnroe, and S/Sgt. Robert J. Hickey, in one jeep, followed by Lt. Col. M. A. Langley, Cpl. Russel F. Meese, and M/Sgt. Mike Havrilla started the reconnaissance. While passing over a bald, snow-covered ridge just west of Gruflange, the party came under mortar fire and was forced to race on into town. A shell landed just ahead of the leading jeep so everyone bailed out and took cover in a house. While waiting for the shelling to let up, several wounded infantrymen were brought into the house and Sergeant Hickey rendered first aid. Since ambulances could not get over the hill to evacuate the wounded, Pfc. McEnroe volunteered to evacuate them in his jeep. In spite of the intense mortar fire which was adjusted on every vehicle passing over the hill, Pfc. McEnroe was successful in getting the men out. He then returned for his party, which lost no time in leaving the scene. At 1630 hours, 28 January, orders were received to occupy positions near Gruflange, and the Battalion, less Service Battery, made one of its fastest moves, closing in position a Gruflange at 1830 hours, after covering 10½ miles through the bitter cold and over the icy roads. Service Battery moved from Cetturu to Beho.

Indications were that the Battalion would be attached to the 174th F.A. Group as soon as we were released from the 422nd F.A. Group, and on 28 January orders were received from CO 174th F.A. Group for the reconnaissance of positions in the vicinity of Lommersweiler, Belgium. Upon

reaching Maspelt, Belgium, the reconnaissance party found that the infantry had not yet taken Lommersweiler. A concentration from a Nebelwerfer landed one round about 10 yards from the party. It was thereupon decided that "discretion was the better part of valor," and the party returned to the Battalion area to wait for a more advantageous time for the reconnaissance.

The same day orders were received from VIII Corps detaching "A" Battery from the Battalion and attaching it to the 90th Inf. Div. We could figure what this meant. We were now approaching the much-publicized Siegfried Line and "A" Battery was going to be used for direct fire on its defenses.

The Battalion was released from attachment to the 422nd F.A. Group and attached to the 174th F.A. Group, effective 30 January, 1945, per VOGC, VIII Corps Artillery.

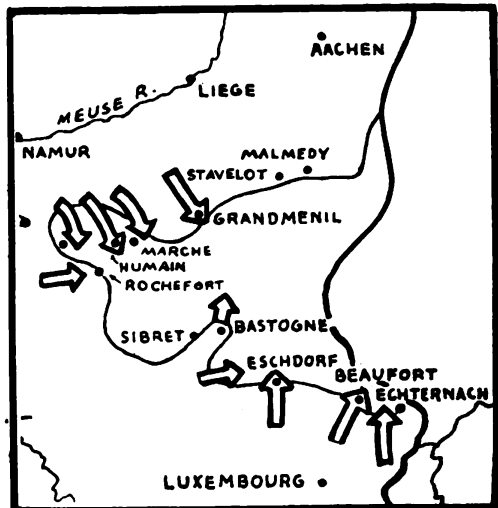
"A" Battery was released from attachment to the 90th Division on 31 January and returned to the Battalion.

During the month of January the Battalion made 8 displacements forward, advancing a total of 50 miles. It fired 124 harassing missions, 181 interdiction missions, 42 enemy batteries, 19 preparation and support missions, 1 defensive mission, 2 counter-attacks, 5 CP's, 3 OP's, 13 strong-points, 1 headquarters, 23 on tanks and armor, 3 high burst registrations, and 18 check point registrations. The total rounds fired was 7,676.

January, 1945, was the hardest month of combat the Battalion had gone through. Casualties from enemy action had not been high, but casualties from icy roads, cold, and frozen food had left their mark on

the Battalion. The deep snow was very beautiful to look upon, but by this time it was considered nothing but an enemy. Feet were cold almost 24 hours of the day; faces were chapped and eyes stung from the flying flakes. Accidents had resulted from driving into snow-filled shell craters, vehicles had been wrecked from sliding on the slippery roads, and nerves had worn thin from not knowing whether that friendly looking snowbank contained a mine, a filled foxhole, or a Jerry. By the end of January we had begun to feel that all the combat we had been in before was child's play and that here was the real thing. We had in that month seen more of the gruesome side of war than ever before. During the hard fighting of that month we began to realize that the Germans were not yet beaten by a long shot. And we were not wrong when we figured then that still harder fighting lay ahead of us.

The reduction of the Bulge. Allied troops, including fresh units, were in position around the triangle squeezing it hard.



THE SIEGFRIED LINE

1 February, 1945 - 28 February, 1945

POSITIONS were reconnoitered and occupied in the vicinity of Steinbruck, Germany, on 2 February, 1945, and we were happy to note that destruction in Germany was as thorough as that in Belgium. During the move a tank retriever was blocking the road and when T/5 Lester A. Henne tried to go around it, he got on the shoulder of the road, struck a mine, and blew a track off. Sgt. Leonard J. Sampert brought his tank up to help T/5 Henne, and in making the turn hit a mine and blew off a track. T/4 Charles LeJambre, T/4 Kieran G. Rigney, and T/4 Peter N. Nickologinous came dashing to the rescue of the two tanks with the Battalion wrecker, but they only hit another mine which quite forcefully removed five tires from the wrecker. No one was hurt in this series of accidents but everyone was shaken up a bit. It was thus driven home to us just how thick mines were sown in this part of the country.

This was our first entry into Germany proper, and Steinbruck was almost completely obliterated. Bombs

had hit the railroad yard and everything else worthy of note. Only about three houses remained standing. Great piles of German bazooka shells lay around, parts of dismembered bodies were scattered along the road, blown-up pillboxes and blasted tanks littered the landscape. Our job had become quite apparent by now; we were to help blast the Siegfried Line.

On 3 February Service Battery moved from Beho to Wallerode, Belgium; and on the same day orders were received to move to position near the town of Amelshied, Belgium. This position was the same that the American Artillery had occupied when the American army had made its furthest advance into Germany in this sector the preceding fall. The same day orders were received from the commanding officer, 174th F.A. Group, for "A" and "B" Battery commanders to report to the commanding general, 90th Inf. Div. and the 4th Inf. Div., respectively. Capt. Willie L. Scott reported to the division and was given a position to reconnoiter, but on completion of



reconnaissance was notified that he would remain with his Battalion. "A" Battery continued as ordered, and was attached to the 90th Inf. Div. During this period of attachment "A" Battery fired only direct fire and knocked out several pillboxes. On 7 February, one pillbox that had been knocked out was examined and six dead German were found inside.

"B" Battery was attached to the —44th F.A. Bn. of the 4th Inf. Div. Artillery on 4 February, and moved to positions in the vicinity of Buchet, Germany. "C" Battery received orders of attachment to the 90th Division Artillery and reported on 5 February. Pvt. Charles Shaw and Pfc. Robert Collum, both wounded at Bech, returned to duty on this date.

At 1300 hours, 6 February, Capt. H. I. Huggins, Assistant S-3, and his driver, Pfc. Ralph C. Fiore, were the first men of the Battalion to enter the Siegfried Line.

On 8 February, the commanding officer, 174th F.A. Group, notified Battalion Headquarters that "C" Battery was assigned to the 11th Armored Division to assist them in their advance through the Siegfried Line, and that "B" Battery would revert to Battalion control the next day. Headquarters Battery closed into position at Buchet, Germany, on 9 February, while "B" Battery was moving into position near Hontheim, Germany. "B" Battery attached one gun to the 44th F.A. Bn. for special missions of close support on 10 February. The mission of this separate gun was to destroy houses that were sheltering enemy OP's and automatic weapons on the outskirts of Prum, Germany.

An OP in conjunction with the infantry was established near Prum on 11 February by Lt. Harry Brooks, T/5 Thomas D. Neale, and Pfc. Harold S. Andrews, and the 2nd Section under Sgt. Richard Sudbrink, which consisted of Cpl. J. R. Waldron,

Cpl. P. J. Gula, T/4 R. L. Naderer, T/5 W. C. Ellson, Pfc. L. A. Ritter, Pfc. Lloyd T. Skeen, Pvt. David Kimmel, Pvt. J. E. Johnson, Pvt. Leo Panighetti, Pvt. F. H. Andrud, T/5 W. E. Hicks, T/4 J. L. Thompson, Cpl. Arthur N. Olson, Pvt. Emmett Godwin, and Pvt. R. C. Kuhnlohe, with Lt. Francis J. Kraemer acting as executive.

Radio contact with the OP was excellent and the gun was laid and ready to fire at 0815 hours. Visibility varied from good to very poor (fog, smoke, and lowering rain clouds). Two attempts had to be made before adjustment was successful. Several houses were destroyed and hits were observed on others. At 1230 hours the OP came under severe mortar fire, and Lieutenant Brooks was wounded in the shoulder and evacuated. The mission complete, the OP was closed and the gun march ordered and returned to the Battery area at 1345 hours.

On 10 February, while returning from gassing "A" Battery, Service Battery's gas truck, driven by T/5 Frank Barkman and Pvt. Felix Lindemann, struck a mine in a road that had been traveled for a couple of weeks. The truck was wrecked but neither man was injured.

"A" and "C" Batteries reverted to Battalion control on 11 February and the Battalion received orders to displace to the north of the VIII Corps sector for the purpose of supporting the 87th Inf. Div. The Battalion, less "C" and Service Batteries, who could not get road clearance, moved to positions near Schlausenbach, Germany, where the Battalion was calibrated by the Army Calibrating Team on 12-13 February. Service Battery later was able to move to Oberlascheid, Germany.

Because of the spring thaw in the early part of February, the roads had become just one long winding mudhole. It was next to impossible to

drive to the rear areas in less than two or three days. Four ammunition trucks were forced out of service because of the hard use they got during the winter and the thaw, and the Battalion experienced great difficulty in getting the supplies of ammunition from the ASP, which was 125 miles to the rear over almost impassible roads. Trips to the ASP required at least 2½ days and, as detours were often necessary, no accurate estimate of the time required for each trip could be made. A jeep, in one instance, made the trip to the ASP on business and was forced to follow the route: St. Vith -- Malmedy -- Vielsalm -- Houffalize -- Bastogne -- Wiltz -- Trois Vergieres -- ASP (3 miles outside Trois Vergieres). The trip consumed two days and the jeep got stuck 17 times, 4 of which were between Trois Vergieres and the ASP. The whole trip was made on roads designated by Traffic Control as the MSR, the most passable roads!

As a result of these conditions the whole front stabilized and the Battalion took up defensive positions. Allocation of ammunition for firing was cut drastically to save the ammunition on hand and all available transportation was used to build up a reserve of 200 rounds per battery. In spite of these drastic measures to conserve ammunition, gasoline, and food, it became necessary on 13 February for the troops to be supplied from the air. Clouds of C-47's swept overhead and rained red, blue, and green parachutes with gasoline, rations, and ammunition on the troops below. Major H. P. Snyder gave a good imitation of a jitterbugging third baseman under a high pop foul, when a bundle of gas cans came apart high in the air and came hurtling down toward him. Avoiding the gas cans was like dodging a handful of gravel thrown directly at him, but he dodged successfully. One can did hit only a few feet away from him,

though, and burst apart and splattered him with a mixture of mud and gasoline.

Service Battery, which was at nearby Oberlascheid, Germany, at this time rendered invaluable service to the Corps when the C-47's overshot their drop point and dropped the supplies in an area inaccessible to wheeled vehicles. By using their "weasel," a recently acquired full-track, reconnaissance vehicle, they recovered 1,500 gallons of gasoline, 400 cases of ammunition, one 2½-ton truck full of rations, and 40 supply parachutes.

"C" Battery, which was still working with the 11th Armored Division, knocked out five pillboxes on 16 February, in the Vicinity of Lulzkamper, Germany.

On 17 February orders were received from the CO, 174th F.A. Group, that the 174th Battalion FDC would act as an Alternate Group FDC.

Mines were sown thickly around the approaches to the Siegfried Line. American casualties rose sharply as a result of the use of several new types of mines, the Concrete, Topf, and Riegel mines. The Battalion CO ordered a mine school be put on for the Battalion, and on 19 February the services of 1st Lt. Keller, of VIII Corps, were secured. Lieutenant Keller conducted an excellent school and convinced everyone that the way to deal with mines was to have no dealings with them at all!

On 21 February, "A" Battery was still working with 90th Inf. Div. and on this date destroyed an 88mm gun mounted on a pillbox, thus bringing the total number of pillboxes destroyed in the Siegfried Line to 62. This same day Lt. Harry Books received his promotion to 1st Lieutenant.

On 25 February, "B" Battery was detached from the Battalion and attached to the 81st F.A. Bn. for special

missions with the 87th Inf. Div. The Battalion was relieved of attachment to 174th F.A. Group, attached to the 183rd F.A. Group and moved to the vicinity of Holzchen, Germany. Service Battery moved to the town of Arzfeld. "A" and "C" Batteries were relieved of attachment to the 90th Inf. Div. and the 11th Armored Division, respectively, and rejoined the Battalion in the vicinity of Holzchen.

On the same day, Lieutenant Colonel Langley, through the medium of a letter, addressed the members of his command as follows:

Today our Bn. is 2 years old, having been formed 25 Feb. 1943, at Camp Bowie, Texas. This organization had its beginning prior to the Civil War. The Bn., in so far as we are currently concerned, came from the 2nd Bn., 135th FA Regt, 37th Div., Ohio National Guard. The Division was stationed at Camp Shelby, Miss., and was formed into a triangular division 1 Feb. 1942, at which time this Bn. was designated 1st Bn., 174th FA Regt., and shortly after was moved to Camp Bowie, Texas, and was designated the 174th FA Bn. on 25 Feb. 1943. Prior to 1 June 1943, the Bn. was equipped with "Long Toms" and at that time we were given our M12's. After two maneuvers in Louisiana and furnishing two cadres, the call came to go overseas, and on 17th Feb. 1944, we departed Camp Bowie, Texas, and arrived at Camp Shanks, New York, 20 Feb. 1944. After being given a final check at Shanks in a record time, we left Pier 54 New York Harbor aboard H.M.S. Samaria 27 Feb. 1944, and debarked Liverpool, England, 11 March, 1944, and moved to Abergavenny, Wales. On 3 May 1944, we moved to Ludlow, England. Orders were received to proceed to Falmouth, England, for the trip across the channel. A record march was made from Ludlow to Falmouth, and on 28 June 1944, we were aboard the Lou Gehrig and "on the way." We debarked 2 July 1944, at La Cambe, France, and some of our accomplishments since landing are listed below:

1. Fired first round 4 July, 1944.
2. Fired over 31,000 rounds since.
3. Participated in Campaign of Normandy, Northern France, and the not yet officially announced Western Germany.
4. Majority of the members of the Bn. are entitled to wear the following service ribbons: American Defense Ribbon, ETO Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Ribbon.
5. We have worked in whole or in part with 333, 174, 196 and 422 FA Groups; 2nd Inf Div., 4th Inf. Div., 6th Armd. Div., 8th

Inf. Div., 17th AB Div., 83rd Inf. Div., 87 Inf. Div., and 90th Inf. Div. We have been attached to the VII, VIII, XII, and XX Corps, and assigned to the 1st, 3rd, and 9th Armies.

6. No one has been AWOL, nor has a venereal disease been reported since landing in Normandy.

7. Taken 65 German prisoners.

8. Travelled and fought over approximately 1,000 miles to get on German soil.

9. Suffered 65 casualties, two killed, T/5 Bradbury, and T/5 Herfurth, 3 men missing, Lt. Fountain, Cpl. Sumrall, and Pfc. Durard.

10. Official commendation from CG, 6th Armd. Div., for Brittany Peninsula drive, and CO 422 FA Gp., for the defense of Luxembourg.

11. 123 continuous days of combat.

12. Bn. is composed of personnel representing 43 states:

Ohio	62	Georgia	8
New York	45	California	8
Texas	36	West Virginia	8
Pennsylvania	35	Arkansas	7
Oklahoma	31	Louisiana	7
Illinois	27	Iowa	7
Tennessee	17	N. Dakota	6
Alabama	16	S. Carolina	1
Connecticut	4	Maryland	3
New Mexico	4	Colorado	2
Idaho	2	Kansas	6
Indiana	14	Washington	5
Missouri	14	N. Carolina	5
Massachusetts	15	Virginia	5
New Jersey	12	Montana	4
Mississippi	10	Nebraska	4
Wisconsin	10	S. Dakota	4
Kentucky	11	Oregon	4
Michigan	10	Maine	1
Arizona	1	New Hampshire	1
Florida	2	Minnesota	9
Vermont	1		

Although you have not seen your name in **Stars and Stripes**, each of you know you have a record and a unit to be proud of. I firmly believe this Bn. has killed more Krauts than any other Corps Bn. This statement and belief is based upon our firing at Brest, France, and Bech, Luxembourg. The direct firing at Brest we know killed many of the Master Race and forced many to come out of their holes, and our firing on Hill 90 virtually levelled off the hill and enabled our infantry to take it without a single casualty. The 8,405 rounds we fired at Bech in December without a doubt contributed greatly to stopping the German drive to capture the city of Luxembourg during that time. We were responsible for breaking up numerous counter-attacks and completely destroying a bridge near Echternach over which the Germans were trying desperately to rush reinforcements.

This fine record has been achieved by the

THE SIEGFRIED LINE

wholehearted cooperation and team work of every man in the Bn. and I congratulate and compliment each of you upon this fine work. As we enter our third year I have the utmost confidence that our past record will be commensurable by other proudfest accomplishments that we will attain as we grow older.

It is indeed a privilege and a high honor for me to have the good fortune to command such an outstanding group of officers and men. May God bless you all.

M. A. LANGLEY
Lt. Col. FA
Commanding

Official credit for participation in the Campaign of Germany was established by Par. 3, Sect. VI, Gen. Orders No. 80, War Dept., 5 October, and was received by the Battalion on 27 February, 1945.

A summary of the missions fired during the month of February are as follows: 51 harassing, 31 interdiction, 2 supply dumps, 1 calibration, 4 preparation, 22 enemy batteries, 5 OP's, 14 infantry targets, 1 train, 1 arty. R., 49 pillboxes, 1 log dugout, 4 houses, 1 truck column, 13 check point registrations (air OP) 4 check point registrations (ground OP), 1 HB registration -- a total of 3,659 rounds fired.

Following is an excerpt from an efficiency report rendered by CO, 422nd F.A. Group, covering the period 6 November, 1944 to 30 January, 1945.

General efficiency of unit: SUPERIOR.

This Battalion operated with this Group for a considerable period and under conditions of great variance. Under no circumstances, however, did this unit fail to give a superior account of itself. The spirit of cooperation and willingness to undertake any assigned task that characterized this Battalion was exemplary. This unit is capable of adapting itself quickly to a changing situation. Its movements are well coordinated and well planned. Its reconnaissance is quick and decisive. Morale is of high standard.

The following commendation was received from Headquarters Division Artillery Command, 9th Armored Division:

Subject: Commendation.

To: Commanding Officer, 422nd Field Artillery Group

Thru: Commanding General, 9th Armored Division

I wish to commend you and the units under your command, for the excellent manner in which your supporting fires were delivered during the period 16th Dec., 1944, to 26th Dec., 1944.

During the period 16th Dec., 1944 to 26th Dec., 1944, the missions fired by these units greatly aided in repelling numerous attacks and inflicting severe losses, both in men and equipment, upon the enemy.

The speed and accuracy with which these missions were accomplished, and the cheerful spirit of cooperation which prevailed at all times, is in keeping with the highest traditions of the service, and reflects great credit upon the officers of these units. Your assistance at all times was greatly appreciated and admired. My best wishes go to you on your future mission.

/s/ **JOSEPH W. WEST**
Col FA
Commanding

1st Ind

HEADQUARTERS 9TH ARMORED
DIVISION, APO 259, U. S. Army,
1st Feb., 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 422nd F.A. Gp.,
U. S. Army

THRU: CG, VIII Corps, APO 308, U.S. Army

The rapid and accurate cooperation of your headquarters and your Field Artillery Battalions in delivering fire on the Germans was of material assistance to Combat Command "A" of this Division in holding its sector. I add my commendation to that of Colonel West's for the splendid work of your officers and men.

/s/ **JOHN W. LEONARD**
Major General, US Army..
Commanding
2nd Ind

HEADQUARTERS VIII CORPS, APO 308
U. S. ARMY, 10 Feb., 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 422nd FA Gp.,
APO 308

THRU: Commanding General, VIII Corps,
Artillery, APO 308

It is a pleasure to forward this letter, reflecting as it does the high spirit of cooperation between all elements of the Army; which contributes so much to our successful operations.

/s/ **TROY H. MIDDLETON**
Major General US Army
Commanding
3rd Ind

HEADQUARTERS VIII CORPS ARTILLERY,
APO 308, U. S. ARMY, Feb. 15, 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 422 FA Gp.,
APO 403, U. S. Army

1. I add my commendation to that of Colonel West.

2. Every officer and enlisted man of

W E D I D

your organization should be extremely proud of his part in stopping the German attack. My congratulations to them all.

/s/ **JOHN E. McMAHON**
Brig. General U. S. Army
Commanding
4th Ind

HEADQUARTERS 422nd FIELD ARTILLERY
GROUP, APO 399, U. S. ARMY, 19 Feb.,
1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 174th FA Bn.,
APO 403, U. S. Army

1. The foregoing commendation is forwarded to you with great pleasure.

2. The results indicated could not have been attained without the splendid co-operation and ability displayed by the officers and men under your command. You and your command are to be commended for a job well

done.

/s/ **HARLO W. HIGBY**
Lt. Col. FA
Commanding
5th Ind

HEADQUARTERS 174th FA BATTALION,
APO 403, U. S. ARMY, 27 FEB., 1945.

TO: All members 174th FA Battalion

1. Firing charts will show that our Battalion was the only Artillery in the 422nd FA Group able to fire into the 9th Armored Sector.

2. Another splendid achievement and another record that shows WE ARE THE BEST.

/s/ **M. A. LANGLEY**
Lt. Col. FA
Commanding

FEAR

I am that dreadful, blighting thing,
Like ratholes to the flood,
Like rust that gnaws the faultless blade,
Like microbes to the blood.

I know no mercy and no ruth,
The young I blight, the old I slay.
Regret stalks darkly in my wake
And ignominy dogs my way.

Sometimes in virtuous garb I rove
With facile talk of easier way,
Seducing, where I dare not rape,
Young manhood from its honor's sway.

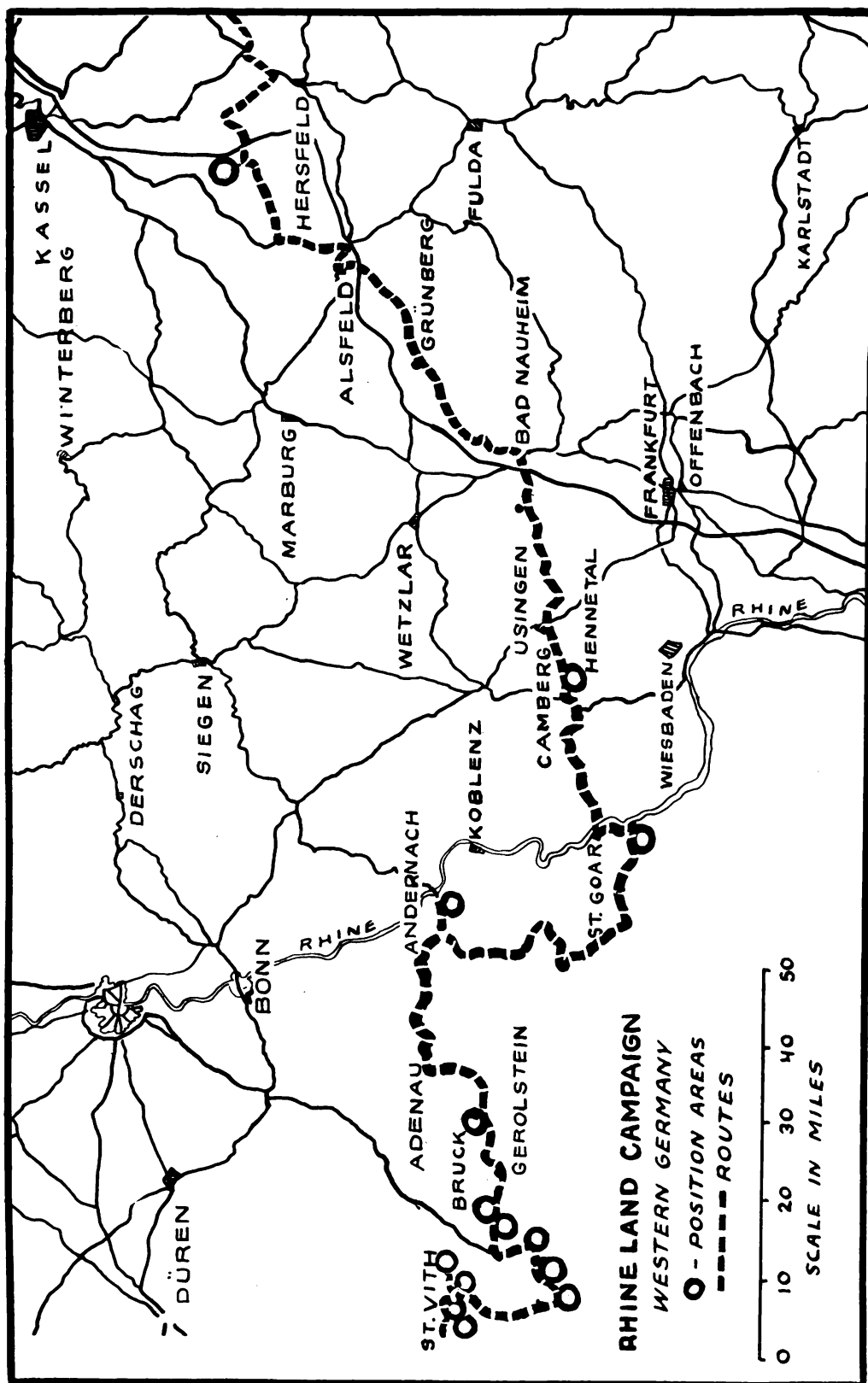
Again in awesome guise I rush
Stupendous, through the ranks of war,
Turning to water with my gaze
Hearts that before no foe could awe.

The maiden who has strayed from right,
To me must pay the meed of shame,
The patriot who betrayed his trust,
To me must own his tarnished name.

I spare no class, or cult, or creed,
My course is endless through the year.
I bow all heads, and break all hearts,
All owe me homage -- I am FEAR!

G. S. Patton, Jr.
Lieutenant General U. S. Army

THE SIEGFRIED LINE



CROSSING THE PRUM, THE KYLL, AND THE RHINE

1 March, 1945 - 31 March, 1945

THE first of March found the Battalion, less "B" Battery, still in position near Holzchen under the 183rd F.A. Group and pounding away at the German defenses across the Prum River. The OP's were some of the best the Battalion had ever occupied, and watching the Germans moving around across the river was like watching a movie. Our armor had forced its way across the river and the observers could see the individual movements of our tanks as they attacked a town and could support them with ease when the Germans appeared to resist their movements.

On the same date "B" Battery was attached to the 174th F.A. Group for special missions, and at daylight they began the march to Ormont, Germany. From a rendezvous area at Ormont, the Second and Third Sections moved to direct fire positions for firing at enemy pillboxes. The commanding general, 87th Inf. Div. instructed Capt. Willie L. Scott to pick "big, fat" targets and said that he would be on hand to watch the firing. Four "big, fat" pillboxes were selected and the guns were placed in position awaiting the arrival of the general. After waiting 30 minutes word arrived that the general would be unable to come to watch the firing; since visibility was perfect the firing began at once. A target hit was obtained on the first pillbox on the fourth round and additional rounds completely demolished the pillbox. Fire was switched to another target and the gun began methodically to blow it to pieces. Incoming mortar shells began to make things uncomfortable around the guns, but the cannoneers stuck to their guns and

fired 74 rounds, destroying a total of four pillboxes. March order was given and the guns moved out of position just as an enemy smoke shell landed in the area for adjustment of enemy artillery.

On the return from the direct fire mission, while negotiating an icy stretch of road about 1,000 yards east of Manderfeld, the gun driven by T/4 Donald R. Schoewe skidded on the ice, and before the gun crew could jump to safety it slipped off the road and rolled down an embankment. Cpl. John H. French, Pfc. Clarence Jackson, Pfc. Robert O. Collum and Pfc. James W. Akins were killed instantly, and S/Sgt. Richard W. Sudbrink and T/5 Elmer L. Lehmkuhl were injured and had to be evacuated to the hospital. Pfc. Collum had been wounded twice before this mission and volunteered to come on the mission as wireman. The loss of these excellent men struck the Battalion very hard. Everyone wondered at a quirk of fate that would let the men go through so much hard fighting, and, just when we could feel the Germans weakening, let them be killed in an accident. This tragedy brought the total fatalities in the Battalion to seven killed.

On 2 March the Battalion reconnoitered positions across the Prum River in the vicinity of Dachscheid and the following day, less "B" and Service Batteries, moved to the new positions. Dachscheid had been the scene of hard infantry and armored fighting and had been practically blown to pieces by our artillery. We were very thankful for the cool weather that had set in again, as it kept the dead cattle and horses from becoming too obnoxious. Later in the

day, Capt. Philip H. Bagwell received instructions to report to commanding general, VIII Corps Artillery for special instructions. The result of this "tete a tete" was the attachment of "C" Battery to the 333rd F.A. Group for work with the 11th Armored Division.

"C" Battery moved, 4 March, to positions at Obermehien, and the march was made without incident. The Battalion, less "B", "C", and Service Batteries, moved from Dachscheid to Herchenbach and at this position received orders relieving the Battalion of attachment to the 183rd F.A. Group, and ordering Lt. Col. M. A. Langley and Capt. Blaise S. Jackewicz to report to the commanding officer, 333rd F.A. Group for further orders. The Battalion was attached to the 333rd F.A. Group and orders were received releasing all batteries from special attachments and to move the complete Battalion to positions to the east of Prum.

On 5 March the Battalion, less Service Battery, moved into the designated positions near Fleringen. Service Battery moved to Dachscheid. Upon its arrival at Fleringen it was joined by all batteries and told to occupy positions and to make further reconnaissance for positions in the vicinity of Budesheim. Registration was completed between flurries of snow, and our observers did a good job in completing the registration. We also registered other Battalions whose observers could not see. A belated Christmas present from Uncle Sam arrived for the cannoneers on this day in the form of a small bulldozer. Our cannoneers had sweated digging gun pits even in December and January, and there was great rejoicing at the thought of all the work that would be saved by that merciful little device, especially with warmer weather coming on. Efficiency reports from the 11th Armored Division and the 90th Inf. Div. received on

5 March stated that both "C" and "A" Batteries had performed their work during their attachments to these divisions in a superior manner.

On 6 March the Battalion formed into two batteries, because three "B" Battery guns needed work, and moved into positions in and north of Budesheim. Lt. Francis J. Kraemer was placed in command of VIII Corps Mobile ASP and set to work to bring up ammunition for the dash across the Kyll River and on to the Rhine. Trucks of all types were beginning to fall to pieces after the rough use they had received as a result of the winter weather and the condition of the roads. Tires were unobtainable and the ones on hand blew out at the slightest provocation. S/Sgt. Albert W. Winkle, "B" Battery motor sergeant, repaired 83 flat tires in one day while working with the VIII Corps Mobile ASP.

Our positions near Budesheim was only two miles from the famous Kyll River defense line of which the Germans spoke so highly, but little firing was done here because our flanking elements were moving so rapidly that we did not know their exact whereabouts. It appeared that orders would be forthcoming attaching the Battalion to the 11th Armored Division which was getting ready for a dash into the German lines to link up with the 4th Armored Division which was already across the Kyll and halfway to Coblenz. Orders were received for the attachment of the Battalion to CCA of the 11th Armored Division and we were told that our objective would be the city of Andernach, a few miles north of Coblenz. However, the Division had great difficulty in crossing the Kyll because of enemy action, the condition of roads and the stream which had swollen by recent rains and snow; so we got off to a late start. After dashing up and down in front of our position for two or three days, the

Division finally took off without us as they felt that Corps Artillery would slow down their advance.

Lieutenant Kraemer and the detachment from "B" Battery which was running the VIII Corps Mobile ASP were relieved of their administrative duties and returned to the Battalion. As soon as "B" Battery guns were ready, the Battalion assembled in its entirety once more at Budesheim on 8 March. In this position many of the men became ill of intestinal flu. The most vivid memories of the position are associated with sleeping in tents in the mud, the incessant rain, and the constant trips between the latrine and the medics. Nature didn't call in this position -- it jerked one around!

Lt. Alfred L. Carlson was transferred to 333rd F.A. Group.

Capt. H. I. Huggins with two men from each battery made a reconnaissance in the vicinity of Wimbach for positions for the Battalion on 9 March. Wimbach was all decorated for the occasion with unmentionables hanging from every window and flagpole. All were white, too. This was not unusual, but when German soldiers began to appear in doorways in full field less rifles the billeting party decided that that was unusual and immediately "took charge." They rounded up 12 Jerries, thoroughly shook them down, and then placed them in custody of the Buergermeister to hold until the Battalion arrived. For all we know the Buergermeister still has them, for the Battalion never occupied this position. Instead, we received orders to reconnoiter positions the next day in the vicinity of Bruck and to move to these positions. Major Gerald D. McGehee accompanied the commanding officer, 333rd F.A. Group from Bruck on 13 March to reconnoiter positions in the vicinity Plaidt. While engaged on that reconnaissance Major McGehee became the first man from the Battalion to see

the Rhine. Positions were occupied in the vicinity of Plaidt a few miles northwest of Coblenz, on 15 March, and, having closed in positions as planned, "C" Battery fired the Battalion's first round across the Rhine. The mission assigned was general support of VIII Corps, but it seemed that everyone was more interested in getting his hands on a little of that famous Rhein Wein we had heard so much about. While occupying this position Captain Horn, 32nd Medical Depot, came to the Battalion and made impressions for ear plugs for the men who worked around the guns. A bit late, though, for Pvt. Joseph F. Casiglia who was evacuated for bad ears.

While at Plaidt, Capt. P. H. Bagwell, Battery Commander, "C" Battery, received unofficial word that Lt. F. G. Fountain, who had been missing in action since November, was a prisoner of war in Germany. On 16 March, Lt. Harry Brooks, wounded 11 February, returned to duty. On 17 March, Pfc. Hubert M. Callaly, wounded at Bech, 2 December, returned to duty. Pvt. Corbert K. Smith, wounded 17 December at Bech, returned to duty 19 March, 1945.

The OP's occupied by the Battalion were on the precipitous banks of the Rhine and the Battalion was firing to the northeast across the river, protecting the south flank of the Remagen bridgehead. Many good targets were fired on, principally German columns on the roads. The Battalion remained in position near Plaidt until 22 March when they received orders to move south again across the Moselle River to the vicinity of Perscheid on the Rhine River.

After occupying positions near Perscheid, OP's were established on the banks of the Rhine again, and visibility was so good that ammunition allocations for targets of opportunity had to be reduced to keep the observers from shooting at everything

that moved. The gun positions were on the forward slope of the Rhine Valley, and in some instances the cannoneers and the computers at FDC could fire and then run out in the open and see what effect their fire was having on the enemy targets.

On 24 March the Battalion was relieved of attachment to the 333rd F.A. Group and attached to the 220th F.A. Group. "C" Battery was detailed to go on anti-barge defense along the Rhine to protect the pontoon bridges the engineers expected to throw across the river. The mission was to go into position along the river bank so they could fire upstream at any barges or rafts that the Germans might load with explosives and float down the river in an attempt to blow out the bridges. A detachment of "flicker-dickers" (tanks with powerful spot lights on them) was assigned to help the Battery. It was the duty of the "flicker-dickers" to blind with their lights any enemy who attempted to fire on the guns or the bridges, and also to spot the enemy so that our guns could fire on them. One of the bridges was to be thrown across the river at Boppard and the other at St. Goar. The bridge was thrown across at Boppard without much opposition, and "C" Battery occupied its positions to protect this life line to the bridgehead across the river.

The crossing at St. Goar was to be made on the night of 25 March and the Battalion was given the mission of establishing a flash base on the hills behind St. Goar to bring accurate and rapid counter-battery fire on any enemy guns that might open up on the bridge site. Lt. Kenneth E. Markham, T/4 David N. Andrew, S/Sgt. Ernest L. Young, Cpl. James R. Kelley, Pfc. Frank J. Mackiewicz, Cpl. Charles E. Lain, Cpl. A. F. Brown, Pfc. John P. Ross, Pfc. Jack R. Thurber and T/5 Charles F. Davidson established this flash base during the daylight hours of 25 March. While

selecting the ends of the base, the party got to witness a most unusual episode. Anti-aircraft fire was heard in the distance behind the German lines and a few seconds later five P47's came streaking out of the east toward our lines. One of them was afire, and as he came abreast of the OP and approximately 800 yards to the south of it, the plane rolled over and the pilot bailed out. The plane crashed just on the German side of the river and the pilot landed about three hundred yards inside the German lines. A German soldier came out and took him prisoner almost by the time he landed and, shoving him away from him, started him into the woods. The remaining four P47's returned and, when the Germans saw them diving at him, he ran right up against the pilot and used the American to protect him from the fire of the planes. The OP personnel felt absolutely helpless, and it hurt to see the pilot taken prisoner right before their eyes and not be able to do anything about it. If the pilot could have remained with his plane for two more seconds he would have landed safely in our territory.

The base was established and operated during the night of the 25th and got plenty of targets to operate on. However, the base was operated on quite a bit itself, for several hundred rounds of all calibers fell in its immediate vicinity. One shell knocked a hole in the truck and destroyed Corporal Brown's rifle, but no one was injured.

On 26 March, Lieutenant Bernstein, 815 AAA Battalion, with T/4 Walter H. Tipton, Headquarters Battery, reported to the Battalion CP with the information that, at about 1000 hours, while on reconnaissance, Lieutenant Colonel M. A. Langley, T/4 Tipton, and Cpl. Russel F. Meese, driver, were fired on while traveling the road along the west bank of the Rhine by a German 20mm. gun located on the oppo-

site side of the river. T/4 Tipton stated that both he and Lieutenant Colonel Langley had got out of the jeep while Corporal Meese was turning around at a bomb crater in the road, when the fire began. Lieutenant Colonel Langley was hit on the first burst, and Corporal Meese was hit on the second burst. T/4 Tipton took cover behind a small concrete structure until the firing ceased, and then managed to crawl down the exposed road for over a mile to the AAA positions, which were defiladed by a bend in the river. T/4 Tipton reported that both men were hit and probably dead.

Major H. P. Snyder organized a rescue party and proceeded to the scene, but since the casualties were in so exposed a position and the Germans were zeroed in on the spot and kept firing at the least movement, it was found impossible to remove them until after dark. At about 1400 hours Major Snyder did manage to reach the spot. He identified the vehicles and the men, but because of the heavy interdiction fire was unable to remove them. At 2000 hours Major Snyder, with Capt. Philip H. Bagwell, T/5 Raymond D. Spencer, T/5 F. L. Mooneyham, and M/Sgt. Mike Havrilla crept forward and evacuated the casualties under heavy fire from the Germans. Lieutenant Colonel Langley was found to be dead and it is believed that he was killed instantly, but Corporal Meese, though fatally wounded, was still alive and was immediately evacuated to the 301st Clearing Station at Oberwesel. The body of Lieutenant Colonel Langley was brought back to Service Battery and turned over to Capt. Kenneth G. Klein for evacuation. Burial services were conducted for Lieutenant Colonel Langley, and the body was interred at 3rd Army burial grounds near Stromberg, Germany. 1st Sgts. Edgar C. Papke, Marvin Evans, and M/Sgts. Mike Havrilla and Joseph Johnson acted as litter-bearers for

the body of the man who was directly responsible for the training and the ultimate success of the Battalion in battle.

Lt. Col. Langley commanded the 174th F.A. Bn. through its entire existence as a separate battalion. The comfort and safety of his men were ever uppermost in his mind. He was unsparing of himself in the pursuit of his duties even unto death. The most fitting tribute that can be paid him lives in the simple words spoken by one of the men of the Battalion, "He was a good man."

Major Snyder assumed command of the Battalion until the arrival of Lt. Col. R. L. Burnett on 28 March. He came to us from the 770th F.A. Bn. and was an old friend of the Battalion, having served on the staff of the 18th F.A. Brigade at Camp Bowie, Texas.

Sgt. Richard W. Sudbrink, injured on 4 March, returned to duty on 28 March.

Word was received that Corporal Meese died in the hospital on 29 March. His body was interred at Stromberg, Germany.

The Battalion, less "C" Battery, on 30 March crossed the Rhine River on the pontoon bridge at St. Goar, and occupied positions near Hennethal with the mission of general support of the VIII Corps. "C" Battery was attached to 1107th Combat Engineers for continued anti-barge defense.

During the month of March this Battalion fired a total of 2,564 rounds as follows: 2,153 rounds M101 HE, 390 M111A1 HE, and 21 smoke. Missions fired were: 14 preparation and support, 59 harassing, 9 pillboxes, 2 dugouts, 4 houses, 1 water reservoir, 8 check point registrations (ground OP's), 30 infantry targets, 17 interdiction, 34 enemy batteries, 6 enemy OP's, 1 ammunition dump, 22 check point registrations (air OP's) 1 storage tank, 3 CI registrations, 1 enemy mess line and 2 calibrations.

THE GERMAN HEARTLAND

1 April, 1945 - 30 April, 1945

ON 1 April, 1945, T/5 Clifford E. Williams, wounded at Brest, returned to duty.

The battalion remained in position at Hennethal, Germany, in general support of VIII Corps and attached to the 220th F.A. Group until 4 April. "C" Battery was released from attachment to the 110th Combat Engineers and moved to the Battalion area on 2 April. Immediately after the Battery had arrived at its new position, T/4 Dominic F. DeDedda took two Heinies prisoner. On 3 April Headquarters Battery took another prisoner who was hiding in a chicken house in the immediate vicinity of the Battalion CP.

On 4 April orders were received for the Battalion to move in echelon to the town of Allmuthshausen, Germany. During the march Pfc. Emmett Godwin, "B" Battery, acting as route marker, captured two German soldiers in Rockenburg, Germany, and later "B" Battery captured another prisoner in their area.

Orders were received from the 220th F.A. Group on 6 April to move under Battalion control to the vicinity of Iba, Germany. It was necessary for the Battalion commander and the battery commanders to make a hasty reconnaissance, for orders were not received to move until 1030 hours, and the IP time for the Battalion was at 1120 hours. While repairing a vehicle which had fallen out near Ellingshausen, Germany, S/Sgt. Howard A. Brookman and his gang of bolt-busters from "A" Battery accepted the surrender of two Krauts. Near Steindorf, Germany, Capt. Richard A. Reid let another hungry Kraut talk him into being his meal ticket. The following day, while clear-

ing the woods in the vicinity of their positions, "A" Battery wounded a German soldier who attempted to escape after being challenged.

Because German troops were scattered through all the woods and villages, where they had been chased by the armor tearing through their lines, it became necessary to divide the Battalion area among the batteries and have all personnel form patrols to sweep these areas clear of the enemy. No serious trouble came from these scattered bands of the enemy; most of them were hungry and only too glad to give up to get a little something to eat. But some units ran into bands of Nazi fanatics and fought pitched battles with them.

Reconnaissance was made in the vicinity of Unkeroda, Germany, and the Battalion began to move to these positions on 7 April. At about 1835 hours, the tail of the marching column was bombed by enemy planes near Dippach, Germany, just after crossing a pontoon bridge across a small stream. Bombs dropped in the road but no vehicles were damaged and no personnel were wounded. The Battalion closed into its new positions at 1900 hours.

At about sunset, while bringing up a train of supplies to the Battalion, the Supply Train was strafed by two enemy planes, and the Battalion gas truck, driven by Pvt. Robert L. Jones and Pfc. Oran A. Carpenter, was hit by MG fire. Pfc. Carpenter was wounded in the leg but he managed to escape from the burning truck. It is thought that Private Jones was killed instantly in the attack, but all attempts to recover his body from the burning truck were in vain because of the exploding gasoline cans.

During the night of 8-9 April the Battalion moved, on orders of the 220th F.A. Group, through strongly held enemy territory to the vicinity of Hohenkirchen, Germany. Great difficulties were experienced on this march, for there had been no opportunity for reconnaissance and it was next to impossible to follow the roads jammed with debris and wrecked enemy equipment during that moonless night. Other columns became entangled in ours and quite a few trucks went astray, but the truck commanders used their heads and stuck with the unit they had got mixed up with, or stopped in place rather than take off on their own in the enemy held territory. The Battalion, including all stragglers, finally closed in the new area about noon on 9 April.

When the Battalion was bivouaced near Hohenkirchen, Germany, most of the command visited the German concentration camp at Ohrdruf. It became easy to believe the heretofore doubted horror stories of the murderous SS and Gestapo after we had looked at the hundreds of unburied bodies of the starved and murdered inmates of this camp. A number of men and officers took pictures of the piles of dead and emaciated human beings. Dead bodies were stacked like cordwood in small buildings and then covered with lime; some were burned or thrown into an acid pit; others were simply buried in a mass grave. The plight of the living "corpses" was, in a sense, even more horrible, for starvation and disease had reduced them to so desperate a condition that even prompt medical attention could not save them.

The Battalion reconnoitered positions in the vicinity of Arnstadt, and on 11 April moved into position just west of the town. Service Battery moved into position near Ohrdruf. Cpl. Hughie Brown was wounded near Arnstadt during an enemy air attack

and was evacuated.

At this time the Germans were retreating so rapidly that it was difficult for the Battalion to keep up with them. Our observers accompanied the front line infantry and in several instances pulled their own advances in an attempt to get close enough to the enemy to get a shot at him. The Germans fought a series of fierce rear guard actions to allow the bulk of their forces to withdraw into Bavaria for their last stand, but the pursuit was pushed so rapidly that they never had time to reform. Our troops moved so swiftly that on one occasion, while Lt. Kenneth E. Markham's OP party was accompanying an infantry patrol forward of our lines, T/4 Dominic DeDedda, a member of the party, surprised and captured a German sniper just about to sit down to a meal of fresh eggs. The party had been in the house ten minutes before the German was found, and he had been completely unaware of their presence. Those eggs were pretty good!

On 12 April positions near Wulferhausen were occupied by the Bat-

*"Cozy place you got here, Fritz."
The fellows arrived in time for dinner.*



talion, less Service Battery. Service Battery moved to Arnstadt.

The following day "B" Battery captured a German soldier hiding in a barn in their area. Later, orders were received for the Battalion commander to reconnoiter for positions near Meckfield. The positions were occupied later that afternoon. Capt. William P. Morris returned to duty as BC of Headquarters Battery after having been hospitalized for illness. Pfc. Joseph Levinskas, wounded at Bech, returned to duty on 13 April, and on this date Major H. P. Snyder and Capt. Willie P. Scott celebrated their birthdays together for the third consecutive year in the field.

Service Battery moved from Arnstadt to Lotschen on 14 April and, on orders from the Commanding officer, 220th F.A. Group, positions were reconnoitered and occupied in the vicinity of Grenda, Germany. While returning to the Battalion area from an observation mission, Lt. Harry Brooks, T/4 David N. Andrew, and T/5 Guy R. Holmes captured three German soldiers near Neustadt.

The following day orders were received to reconnoiter and to occupy positions near Schwarzback, Germany. Upon occupation of this position "B" Battery added two more prisoners to the bag. On this day Cpl. Conio J. Coviello was evacuated for illness.

The Battalion made a reconnaissance and occupied a position in the vicinity of Wittchendorf on 16 April. This position was occupied just two hours after the leading elements of the infantry passed through the town. Our reconnaissance party took the town while the infantry was still about 1,000 yards to the north. It was at Wittchendorf that more than one hundred British and Canadian and two American prisoners of war were liberated by the Battalion. Some of these men had been prisoners since Dunkirk and they were plenty glad to

see us. S/Sgt. Everett W. Cooper, of Headquarters Battery, broke into the movies by having his picture taken handing out cigarettes to them. At Wittchendorf were taken eight more German prisoners, and in a nearby town more than 50 German civilian workers who worked for the army.

The Battalion was relieved of its attachment to the 220th F.A. Group and attached to the 7th TD Group, and on the night of 16 April, fired its last combat round in the ETO. From 4 July, 1944, to 16 April, 1945, this Battalion fired 35,957 rounds, 469 of which had been fired in April.

Service Battery moved from Lotschen to Hohenleuben on 18 April, and in this position were billeted in a textile mill which had been manned by slave laborers. This same day the Battalion further reduced the ranks of the Wehrmacht when it took into custody three bedraggled and louse-ridden "supermen".

The following day orders were received from the CO, 7th TD Group, for the Battalion to move to Weimar, the birthplace of the extinct German Republic of 1918. It was here that the Battalion was to undertake an entirely new type of combat work. Security duties involved in guarding the supply lines were taken up with the 687th F.A. Bn., and such work as guarding bridges, art works and monuments, and patrolling roads in the VIII Corps area. Since our area was widely scattered, sub-areas were given to the different batteries. Headquarters Battery moved to Weimar, "A" Battery to Erfurt, "B" Battery to Gefmeroda, and "C" Battery to Legefelf.

While in Weimar much of the personnel visited the infamous concentration camp of Buchenwald. Buchenwald made the tiny camp of Ohrdruf seem mild in comparison. Piles of unburied dead Russians, Poles, and Italians were stacked around the camp. Partially burned bodies were



Cremating incinerators used by Germans at Buchenwald.

still in the cremating incinerators. Men who had been starved for months and years still died at the rate of 200 a day in spite of the American medical attention they were now receiving. In this camp alone, 51,000 people had died from disease, starvation, or brutality, or had simply been murdered. Along the walls of the buildings in which they were housed, the inmates slept eight to a wooden bunk six feet square. Operations were performed in the hospital in plain sight of the other patients. Only those who saw the camp could believe the ghastly stories told about it. An article in the *Stars and Stripes* describes some of the repercussions as follows:

CIVILIANS ESCORTED TO SCENE OF CRIME

American commanders who organized the tours of German civilians through the horrors of the Buchenwald prison camp, where 500 to 600 prisoners were being cremated weekly, used the same theory as that used in house-breaking a dog. You point to what he's done and then spank him.

German civilians are led first through a small office where a light is thrown on the walls through a lampshade of human skin stretched over a wire frame. They are next taken to a barracks where 1,200 emaciated prisoners were found starving but still alive. All but eight of the 1,200 died a few days later.

The SS guard motto which was whispered to every prisoner as he came in is given to the German civilians: "You come in through

the gates here and go out through the chimney."

After seeing the camp, Rep. Claire Luce Booth said: "A few years ago, there was talk about the 'good' German people. After seeing this, one wonders whether there is good in any German people.

Sir Henry Morris Jones, MP, said, "There has been no exaggeration. It was beyond description."

On 20 April, Service Battery moved from Hahnlereben, Germany, to Obergrunstedt, where normal service to the vehicles of the Battalion could be rendered from a central location. Pfc. Sidney Goldfine, "A" Battery, received a superficial wound when he moved a book in the barracks where he was quartered, and exploded a booby trap which filled his arm and chest with birdshot. He did not have to be evacuated.

Headquarters and "A" Batteries were assigned the mission of guarding buildings containing installations (Headquarters in Weimar and "A" in Erfurt). "B" and "C" Batteries were assigned the mission of road patrolling.

Orders from CG, Third Army, on 22 April, detached the Battalion from the VIII Corps and returned it to the direct control of the Third Army. The Battalion, on Army orders, moved from Weimar to Lichtenfels and upon arrival was attached to the Security Section of the 8th Armored Group under the Provost Marshall, 3rd U. S.

Members of Battery B, 174th F.A. viewing Ohrdruf Concentration Camp.



Army. Guarding radio relay stations, bridges, objects of art and monuments became the principal duties of the Battalion. "B" Battery moved to the vicinity of Erbdorf, and while there it received information from two Polish slave laborers that led to the capture of 20 German soldiers at Scheny, Germany.

The Battalion received official information on 27 April, that Lt. Floyd G. Fountain, who had been missing in action since 20 November, 1944, and T/5 Clifton E. Sumrall, missing in action since 19 December, 1944, were safe in Allied hands.

"C" Battery moved to Eltersdorn, Germany, and "A" Battery moved to Bamberg. Headquarters Battery, less the CP detachment, remained in Lichtenfels. The CP Detachment and Service Battery moved to Streitberg, Germany, a small town 12 miles east of Forchheim. These Batteries were employed in guarding various installations. Headquarters Battery guarded an ancient German castle which contained the German naval archives and received a commendation from the naval officer who relieved them on the manner in which it had performed its duties. The other Batteries guarded radio relay stations and bridges on the MSR to protect them from sabotage by the Werwoelfe.

While enroute from Streitberg to Coburg, Germany, on 29 April Capt. James W. Powers and his driver, Pfc. Warren C. Johnson, were ambushed by 29 German soldiers five kilometers north of Lichtenfels and captured. They had been flagged down by a GI asking for gas for this truck, when suddenly "Achtung! Achtung!" and the Germans stepped out of the woods and covered them with automatic weapons. They were loaded into the back of their jeep and two Germans drove them back into the woods. While driving over the rough trail, the German holding the P38 on them ac-



*Stacked like cordwood
Ohrdruf Concentration Camp.*

cidentally discharged his pistol between Captain Powers' feet. Captain Powers pretended to be wounded and Pfc. Johnson called the Germans' attention to Captain Powers' feet. When they stopped and turned around to check the injury, Captain Powers grabbed the gun, and then he and Pfc. Johnson swarmed all over the two Germans. Pfc. Johnson quickly slapped his opponent out of the jeep, took his place behind the wheel, and started the motor. Captain Powers knocked his adversary to the ground and recovered the pistol which had fallen to the floor of the jeep during the struggle, and attempted to ventilate the two Jerries, but the pistol failed to fire. Pfc. Johnson's former opponent scrambled to his feet, whipped out his pistol, and began harassing fire on the occupants of the jeep. Captain Powers grabbed up an M3 sub-machinegun, caliber 45, and laid down a defensive barrage on the two Germans, somewhat discouraging their activities. Pfc. Johnson drove back out of the woods, and they swung onto the main road in the best moving-picture-gangster style with the sub-MG sputtering an answer to the fire of the remaining Germans, and took off for Coburg to get assist-

ance in sweeping the woods. Neither Captain Powers or Pfc. Johnson was injured beyond swollen knuckles in this fray, but they must have been somewhat nervous afterward, for they smoked about two cartons of cigarettes before dark.

The last day of the month the Battalion CO received a letter of commendation from the CG, VIII Corps, dated 24 April, 1945, which read as follows:



*Sgt. Corder's Section
"B" Battery.*

HEADQUARTERS
VIII CORPS ARTILLERY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

24 April 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO: CO, 174th F.A. Battalion, APO 403, U. S. Army

THRU: CG, 3rd U. S. Army, APO 403, U. S. Army

1. The 174th F.A. Bn. has been relieved of attachment to the VIII Corps Artillery for duty with the XX Corps. During your attachment here from 8 August 1944 to Sept. 1944, and 28 Nov. 1944 to 18 April 1945, you have participated in the following operations: St. Malo, Brest, Luxembourg, Ardennes, penetration of the Siegfried Line, and advance to the Rhine River, crossing the Rhine River, and advance to Central Germany.

2. In all of the above operations the Battalion has rendered conspicuous and superior service to this Corps and has been an important factor in the success of the Army of the United States in reducing the enemy to his present impotent condition. The accomplishments of this Battalion have surmounted numerous difficulties, one of these the loss on 26 March 1945 of Lt. Col. Marshall A. Langley, then commanding the Battalion, who was killed in action during the crossing of the Rhine. The manner in which the Bn. has carried out any assigned task indicates the fine spirit of all personnel and the superior leadership of the officers and non-commissioned officers.

3. I and the members of the Corps Artillery staff feel a deep sense of regret in the loss of this battalion to the Corps.

4. It is desired that this letter be read at the first possible formation after its receipt, that it be reproduced at your headquarters, and a copy furnished to each officer and enlisted man.

JOHN E. McMAHON
Brig. Gen., U. S. Army
Commanding

1st Ind

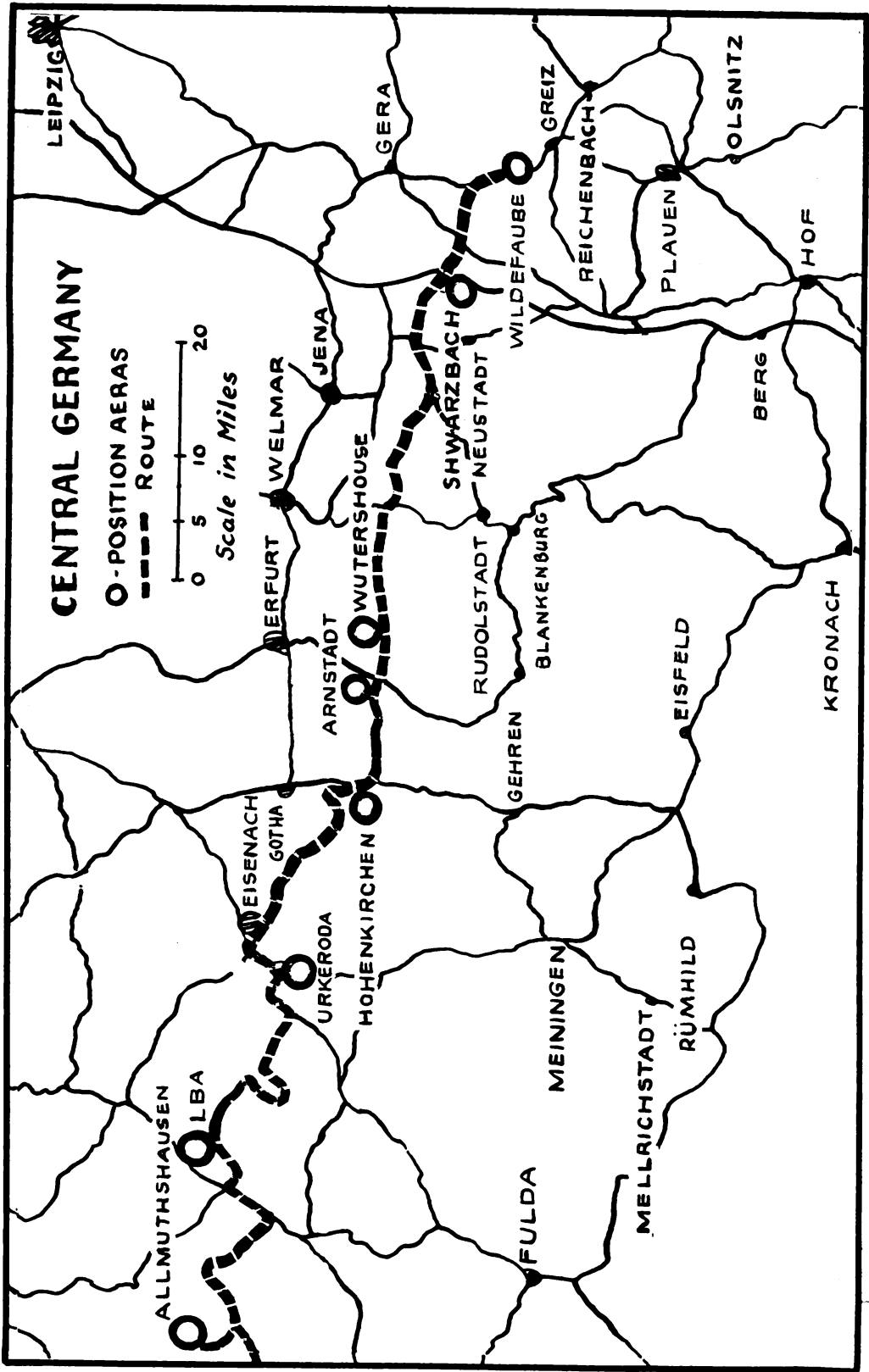
AG 330.13 --- GNMCF
(24 Apr 45)

HQ THIRD US ARMY, APO 403, US ARMY, 28 April 1945

To: Commanding Officer, 174th F.A. Battalion, APO 403, U. S. Army

The Army Commander is pleased to note and forward this letter of commendation.

By command of GENERAL PATTON
R. W. HARTMAN
Lt. Col., A.G.D.
Asst. Adj. Gen.



W E D I D

The Unit Efficiency Report from 220th F.A. Group was also forwarded to the Battalion and reads as follows:

HEADQUARTERS
220 FIELD ARTILLERY GROUP
APO 403, U. S. ARMY

320

19 April 1945

SUBJECT: UNIT EFFICIENCY REPORT

TO: CG, VIII Corps Artillery APO 308, U. S. Army

In compliance with Memorandum 28, Headquarters VIII Corps Artillery, subject as above, dated 20 Nov., 1944, this report is submitted covering the 174th F.A. Battalion:

- a. General efficiency of unit: Excellent.
- b. Operations in which engaged: The 174th F.A. Bn. was attached to the 220th F.A. Group on 24th March, at Rheinbollen, Germany. The Bn. crossed the Rhine at St. Goar on 29 March and moved 12 times from position to position in general support of the VIII Corps, finally arriving at Wittchendorf near Weida, Thuringia, Germany, the distance travelled in these moves being about 461 miles. A total of 76 combat missions were fired during the period of attachment to the 220th Group, and in addition at each location patrols were formed to clear position areas, and assigned to clear surrounding wooded areas of straggling enemy troops. The Battalion was relieved from attachment to the 220th Field Artillery Group on April 18, 1945.
- c. Status of personnel and equipment: T/O strength - 490, assigned strength - 463, equipment shortage - 3 ea. 2½-ton trucks, 2 ea. ¼-ton trailers, 2 ea. air compressors. Because of frequent moves during period all tracked (M12 mounts) and wheeled vehicles were in need of maintenance at the time of relief from attachment to this group.
- d. General readiness for continued combat: After the motor maintenance referred to in paragraph 2c, unit is capable of continued efficient operation in combat.
- e. Other matters considered to be of interest to the Corps Artillery Commander: The commanding officer of this Battalion was killed by enemy action on 26 March. The new commander has fitted himself into the organization with commendable efficiency. The organization shows the results of efficient leadership and training over a long period.

/s/ JOHN J. TURNER
Colonel, F. A.
Commanding

VICTORY OVER GERMANY

1 May, 1945 - 31 May, 1945

DURING the first week of May, 1945, Headquarters, "A", "B", and "C" Batteries followed the routine of the previous week, guarding various installations. "C" Battery moved from Furth, Germany, where it had been guarding an air strip and a radio relay station to a similar assignment on the "blue" Danube at Regensburg, Germany. On the way to Regensburg, "C" Battery passed through the "most German city" of Nurenberg, which was now a mass of rubble and ruins, and saw Hitler's **Sportpalast**, the gigantic stadium where the Olympic games were once held. The stadium was undamaged but the Air Corps had certainly done an A-1 job on the rest of the city. On 2 May, T/5 John L. Yodice, Medical Detachment, left for the States because of illness in his family. "B" Battery was relieved of its guard duties on 6 May

and moved from Erbindorf to Gossweinstein, Germany.

A special allotment of 60 reinforcements joined the Battalion on the afternoon of 7 May for the purpose of assisting the Battalion in carrying out Military Government duties it expected to assume later. Pvt. David K. Kimmel was accidentally wounded in the neck and evacuated on this day.

Several American P-38's forced down a German transport containing eight German flying officers, and a cub carrying one pilot and his girl friend, in the vicinity of Headquarters Battery CP on the evening of 8 May. Headquarters Battery promptly confiscated all Lugers, etc., and turned the prisoners over to the Battalion. After all it isn't every day that a Field Artillery Battalion captures two airplanes!

Hitler's house at Berchtesgaden.



The Battalion calmly received the news that the German Armed Forces had unconditionally surrendered to the Allied Forces, and that V-E Day was officially announced as 9 May, 1945. Since the men felt that they had made valuable contributions to the defeat of Germany, everyone relaxed by reading the *Stars and Stripes*, with the bold headline **VICTORY** and consuming an amazing quantity of the delicious red wine from Streitberg, and beer and cognac from wherever it could be procured.

General Eisenhower delivered the "Victory Order of the Day:"

Men and women of the Allied Expeditionary Force:

The crusade on which we embarked in the early summer of 1944 has reached its glorious conclusion. It is my special privilege, in the name of all Nations represented in this Theatre of War, to commend each of you for valiant performance of duty. Though these words are feeble they come from a heart overflowing with pride in your loyal service and admiration for you as warriors. Your accomplishments at sea, in the air, on the ground and in the field of supply, have astonished the world. Even before the final week of conflict, you had put 5,000,000 of the enemy permanently out of the war. You have taken in stride military tasks (so) difficult as to be classed by many doubters as impossible. You have confused, defeated and destroyed your savagely fighting foe. On the road to victory you have endured every discomfort and privation and have surmounted every obstacle ingenuity and desperation could throw in your path. You did not pause until our front was firmly joined up with the great Red Army coming from the East, and other Allied forces coming from the South. Full victory in Europe has been attained. Working and fighting together in a single and indestructible partnership you have achieved a perfection in unification of air, ground and naval power that will stand as a model in your time. The route you have travelled through hundreds of miles is marked by the graves of former comrades. From them has been exacted the ultimate sacrifice; blood of many nations -- American, British, Canadian, French, Polish and others -- has helped to gain the victory. Each of the fallen died as a member of the team to which you belong, bound together by a common love of liberty and a refusal to submit to enslavement.

No monument of stone, no memorial of whatever magnitude could so well express our respect and veneration for their sacrifice as would perfection of the spirit of comradeship in which they died. As we celebrate Victory in Europe let us remind ourselves that our common problems of the immediate and distant future can best be solved in the same conceptions of co-operation and devotion to the cause of human freedom as have made this Expeditionary Force such a mighty engine of righteous destruction. Let us have no part in the profitless quarrels in which other men will inevitably engage as to what country, what service, won the European War. Every man, every woman, of every nation here represented, has served according to his or her ability, and the efforts of each have contributed to the outcome. This we shall remember -- and in doing so we shall be revering each honored grave, and be sending comfort to the loved ones of comrades who could not live to see this day.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

Just to give the proper gala air to V-E Day the Battalion had its first big formation made up of men from each battery for the presentation of commissions to: M/Sgt. Mike Havrilla, Headquarters Battery, 1st. Sgt. Edgar C. Papke, Headquarters Battery, and Sgt. Richard W. Sudbrink, "B" Battery. These three lucky stiffes were the first in the Battalion to be discharged from the army after the cessation of hostilities, but the discharge didn't last longer than two or three minutes, as they were commissioned as Second Lieutenants, AUS, immediately afterward. 2nd Lt. Mike Havrilla O-2015813 was assigned to "B" Battery. 2nd Lt. Edgar C. Papke O-2015817 was assigned to "C" Battery, and 2nd Lt. Richard W. Sudbrink O-2015797 was assigned to Headquarters Battery.

On 10 May, 1945, the Battalion had still not quite grasped the fact that the war was over, and things moved along much as usual. Headquarters Battery moved to Behringersmuhle and "B" Battery moved into Pottenstein, Germany. These moves situated all batteries within ten miles of the Battalion CP at Streitberg.

By 12 May all guard details had

been relieved except the one at the castle near Coburg, and machinery was set in motion to organize a school for officers and non-coms for the purpose of learning the Military Government business.

A Military Government School was conducted on 13 to 15 May by members of the G-5 Staff, Third Army. At the close of the school Headquarters, "A", "B", and "C" Batteries were each divided into three Military Government Detachments consisting of one officer and approximately 25 enlisted men. These detachments were as follows:

Detach.	Batty.	Officer in Charge
MGTA 13	Hq	2nd Lt. R. W. Sudbrink
MGTA 14	Hq	1st Lt. J. J. Donegan
MGTA 15	Hq	1st Lt. F. L. Smith
MGTA 16	A	1st Lt. Harry Brooks
MGTA 17	A	1st Lt. W. P. Mosby
MGTA 18	A	1st Lt. D. D. McNitt
MGTA 19	B	1st Lt. W. D. Reimann
MGTA 20	B	1st Lt. R. W. Word
MGTA 21	B	1st Lt. F. J. Kraemer
MGTA 22	C	1st Lt. K. E. Markham
MGTA 23	C	2nd Lt. E. C. Papke
MGTA 24	C	2nd Lt. A. A. Sudbrink

The Battalion was assigned the area of Southwest Bavaria around Augsburg in which to administer Military Government, and while waiting for orders the men studied the various kits issued telling how to solve the problems of the German people.

By 20 May no orders were forthcoming, and as things began to look as if it might take some time to arrange to use the Battalion in its assigned area, G-5 decided to use the detachments to supplement the regular detachments in our vicinity and thereby to gain valuable experience for the members of our detachments.

On 21 May the following assignments of detachments were made:

Detachment	Town
MGTA 13	Ebermannstadt
MGTA 14	Pegnitz
MGTA 15	Neustadt
MGTA 16	Scheinfeld
MGTA 17	Georgensgmund
MGTA 18	Wendelstein
MGTA 19	Lichtenfels
MGTA 20	Lichtenfels

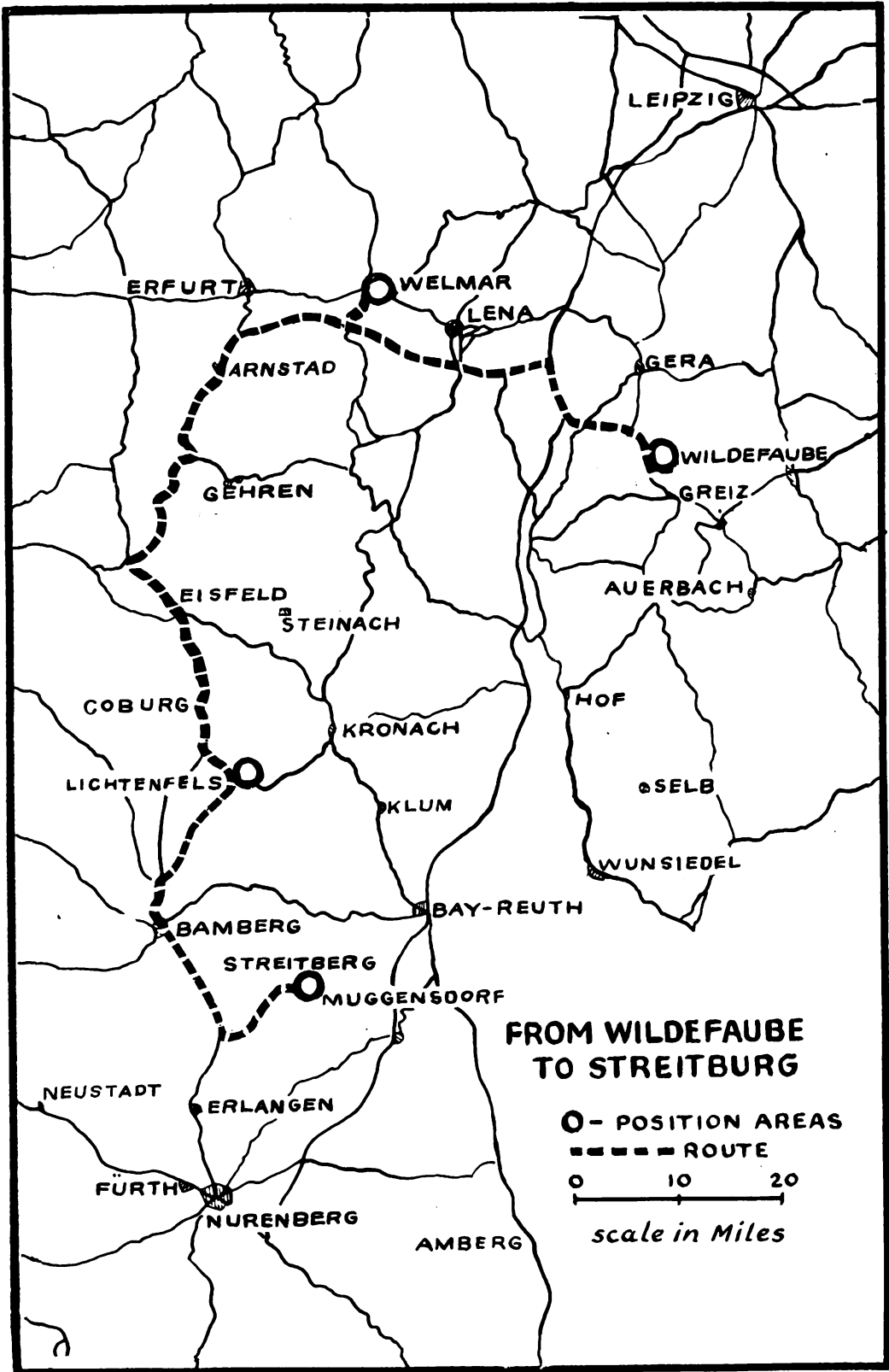
MGTA 21	Naila
MGTA 22	Stadtsteinach
MGTA 23	Selb
MGTA 24	Wunseidel

The Battalion CP, plus Service Battery, remained in Streitberg, Germany, and continued to administer justice to the inhabitants of the town and the surrounding countryside. Headquarters Battery CP moved to Pegnitz on 23 May, "B" Battery CP moved to Lichtenfels, "C" Battery CP moved to Wunseidel. "A" Battery remained in Pottenstein.

The detachments hunted unsuccessfully for Nazis. Everyone who came into the offices was just a poor down-trodden civilian who never had liked Hitler or his policies. They were all good friends of the Americans, and did the Americans have a few cigarettes they could spare. Everyone who had trouble blamed it on the "AA" or the Displaced Persons. Displaced Persons called all Germans "SS" and things in general constituted a merry merry-go-round. Germans reported their next-door neighbors as being Nazis and in turn were reported themselves. Everyone tried to curry a little favor with the Americans. The inmates of the Mutterheim at Streitberg had a big fight and all the state-subsidized mothers came to the Battalion CP hunting jobs waiting on tables in the mess. One was hired, but as she brought her very young offspring along and had all the cooks, half the medics, and Lt. E. V. Poe tending to it, not much advantage could be seen in having her around, so she had to be fired. It didn't work though because she still stuck around to get in on the food being put out.

Pfcs. H. P. Kilgore and E. A. McCarthy were evacuated for illness on 28 May.

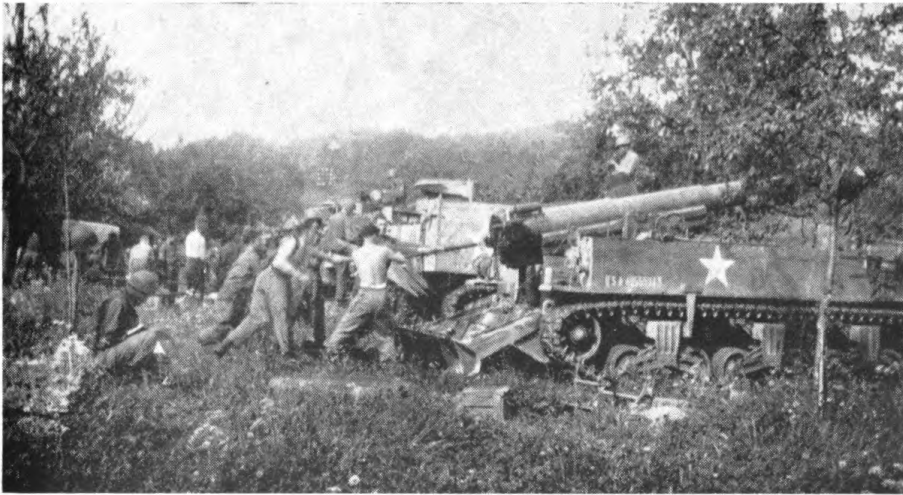
On 29 May the Battalion received its first quota for a man to go home on the point system. M/Sgt. Marvin Evans, with 109 points (who had be-



come Sergeant Major when Lieutenant Havrilla was commissioned), was the high-point man and was selected for the trip. He left with the good wishes of the Battalion, and his departure raised the hopes of the men and increased their confidence in the point system. They began to think there might just be something in it after all. The Sergeant Major's vacancy was filled by T/Sgt. Robert L. DeBolt, Headquarters Battery, who had formerly been the Operations Sergeant.

The Battalion continued Military Government duties throughout the month of May. The air section got in a lot of flying time maintaining liaison with 220th F.A. Group, although

at times they had considerable trouble with the sudden rain storms that swept down in that part of the country and threatened to wash the glue off the wings of their sturdy Paperschmitts. The Air Corps celebrated the end of the war in novel fashion by flying P-51's, P-48's, and B-26's at tree-top level, and had a bad habit of popping up over a hill right between the eyes of our pilots. Flying in peacetime in the face of these dangers was more hazardous than dodging flak in combat, and several times it was necessary for our pilots to go into one of their famous 20 G power dives to avoid tearing up a B-29 in a head-on collision.



Cleaning 'em up at Lichtenfels.

DISPLACED PERSONS DUTY AND REDEPLOYMENT

1 June, 1945 - 1 July, 1945

THE first days of June passed all too quietly. Then, with the suddenness of a thunderbolt on the afternoon of 4 June, orders were received for the Battalion to establish a DP camp at Linz, Austria, and to move to that vicinity as soon as possible.

Captain Sviegon of Twelfth Army Group was attached to the Battalion to aid in the establishment of the DP Camp, and to establish liaison with the Russians for the deportation of Eastern Europeans, and the importation of Western Europeans.

T/5 Lloyd E. Wahl, who had been evacuated on 15 January, returned to duty on 4 June.

On 5 June, Capt. James W. Powers and Captain Sviegon left Streitberg for Linz to select a DP camp site. With them they carried a Russian liaison officer and a Belgian liaison officer. This cosmopolitan assemblage, with its babble of different tongues, meant that it took fifteen minutes to do anything, for the conversation had to be translated three times.

On 6 June, Major McGehee left Streitberg for Linz with a billeting party to secure billets for the Battalion. Captain Powers and his party arrived at Linz late in the afternoon of 6 June and made the necessary arrangements for the DP camp. Military Government detachments were relieved of their duties and the batteries assembled in the vicinity of their various CP's in preparation for the march to Linz. Cpl. Conio Coviello, who had been evacuated on 15 April, and Pfc. H. P. Kilgore and E. A. McCarthy, who had been evacuated 28 May, returned to duty.

On 7 June the batteries, marching individually, moved by the route:

Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau, to Linz, and on to their billets at Magdalena Barracks, three miles east of Linz and on the north bank of the "blue" Danube, (which, by the way, never did get blue, at least while we were there). The batteries arrived at their destination before dark. 42 EM under Lt. R. W. Word remained at Streitberg with the full track equipment.

Captain Powers and his party, after getting passes from the commanding general, 65th Inf. Div., and the Russian liaison officers with the American troops, left Linz for Melk, Austria, to contact the American liaison officers with the Russians who handled Western Europeans. All went well until they reached the first Russian outpost on the east bank of the Enns River at Enns, Austria. The guard refused to let them pass, explaining that their pass had to be signed by a Russian general. When the guard was told that the CG 65th Inf. Div. had signed their pass, he replied, "He ain't no Russian," or the Russian equivalent. After telephoning the CG of the 4th Russian Guard Army, the party received permission to proceed to Melk in one vehicle and under the supervision of a Russian lieutenant.

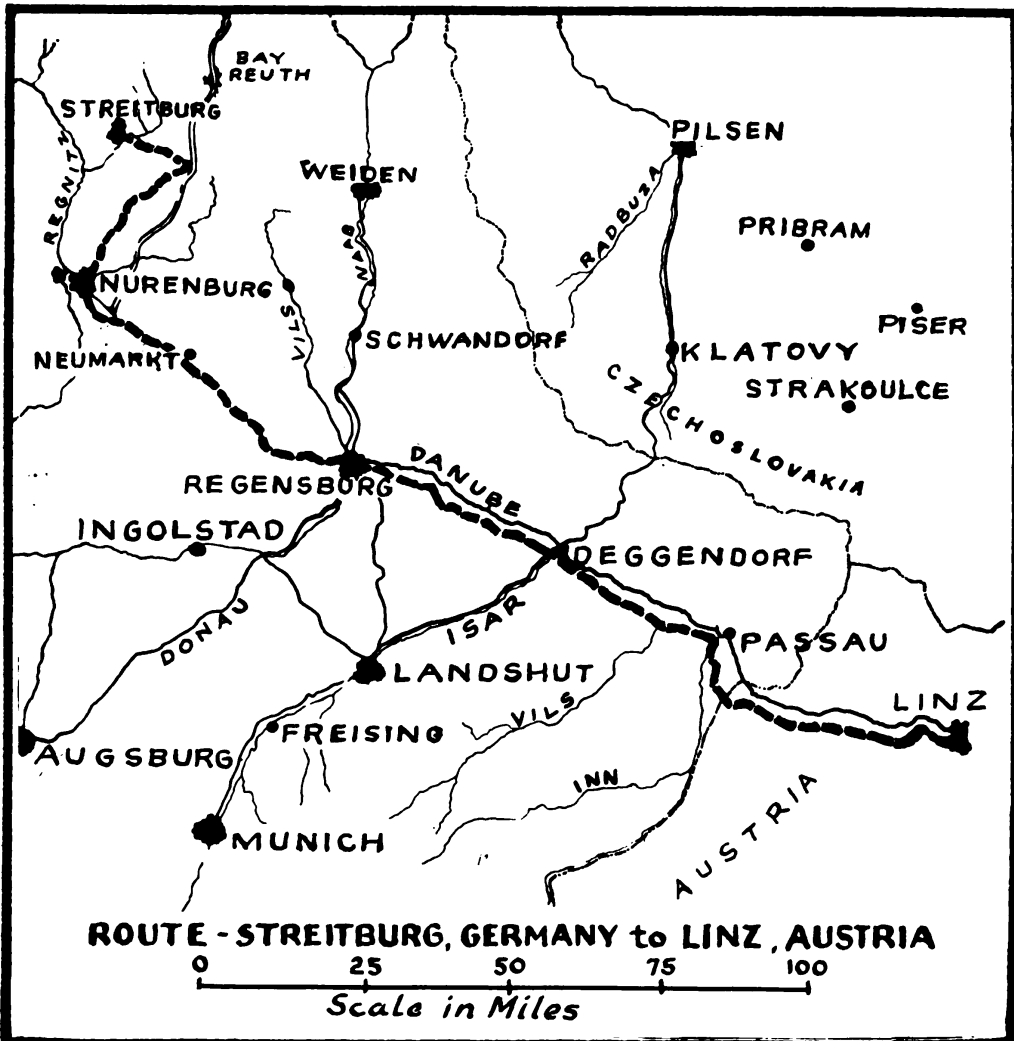
The jeep proceeded at full speed through the Russian occupied territory. The party passed Russian women soldiers directing traffic at the crossroads and in towns. It saw the Russian horse-drawn supply trains that had supplied their army over exceedingly long lines. It was easy to see how it had been done, for the horses never walked, they always trotted. The party settled affairs in Melk and returned to Linz after dark.

When they reached the bridge across the Enns, they expected no trouble, but as it turned out even the Russian lieutenant who had accompanied them had trouble convincing his own men that the party should be allowed to pass.

After the Battalion arrived in Linz, it was found impracticable to establish a DP camp there, for 54 camps were already operating in the city. The Battalion, therefore, went on a regular training schedule and did maintenance on their equipment.

On 14 June a rest camp was established by the Battalion in the vicinity

of Traunkirchen, Austria. Swimming, boating, and boozing became the pastime of the men who went. Sun-bathing produced a few lobster backs, but it was all good clean fun -- especially the near-fraternization that went on. Remember the girls who came down to swim and then put on their bathing suits within ten feet of you? Several pairs of glasses had to be issued as a result of this practice to men suffering from eyestrain. It really took will power to keep from answering the sixty-four dollar question. When the order came out permitting fraternization with small



children, there were many liberal interpretations of this order. Everyone considered a member of the opposite sex a small child if the one being considered were smaller than the one doing the considering.

"B" Battery handled the loading of displaced Italians; Headquarters, "A", and "C" Batteries handled the receiving and transporting of Russians under the supervision of the 65th Inf. Div. stationed at Linz. Oh yes -- Lt. George G. Lorentz handled the rest camp.

The redeployment of men with over 85 points began on 28 June, 1945, when 19 men were transferred to the 775th F.A. Bn. and 6 men transferred to the 204th F.A. Bn., per Special Order No. 50, Headquarters 220th, F.A. Group. Twenty-one men from the 775th F.A. Bn. and 8 men from the 204th F.A. Bn. were transferred to the Battalion per Special Order No. 40, Headquarters 33rd F.A. Brigade, and 19 men were transferred to the Battalion from the 770th F.A. Bn. These transfers were made in order that men who did not have enough points to get out of the army would be placed in units where they could be redeployed and if they had 85 or more points could be placed in units from which they could be sent home.

Special Order No. 42 Headquarters 33rd F.A. Brigade, transferred four officers to the 770th F.A. Bn. and one officer to 176th F.A. Bn. Special Order No. 51, Headquarters 220th F.A. Group, transferred 40 men from

the 775th F.A. Bn. and 15 men from the 204th F.A. Bn. to the 174th F.A. Bn. The same order transferred 15 men from the Battalion to the 204th F.A. Bn., and also transferred three officers from the Battalion to the 775th F.A. Bn., and one officer to the 220th F.A. Group, and transferred to the Battalion four officers. Transfers were effective as of 2400 hours, 30 June, 1945.

More than one hundred men and all but five officers left the Battalion on the Redeployment Plan. Many of our best men left the Battalion, but that had happened before. The Battalion was girding its loins for the Pacific because the "Fighting 174th" was alerted for the Far Eastern Theater.

On Sunday morning, 1 July, 1945, at 0700 hours the first detachment of men with 85 points and over, to be deployed to the States and mustered out of the Service, fell in and the roll was called. A lot of handshaking went on between those leaving and those remaining, and insults and good wishes were exchanged. Although those leaving were lucky to be getting out of the army, a lot of tough talk was employed to cover up that feeling of leaving friends of long standing. At 0715 hours the trucks containing our soon-to-be civilians rolled out of Magdalena Barracks, Linz, Austria, with all of us waving our hands like a bunch of Frenchmen greeting their liberators.



Finis

A P P E N D I X

Awards:

Purple Hearts	Page 130
Bronze Star Medals	Page 131
Air Medals	Page 133
Croix De Guerre	Page 133
Embarkation Roster	Page 134
Home Addresses	Page 140

APPENDIX

PURPLE HEARTS

Collum, Robert O.	LWA	6 July 1944	St. Jores, France
	LWA	17 December 1944	Bech, Luxembourg
Adams, Albert W.	KIA	4 March 1945	Manderfeld, Belgium
	LWA	19 July 1944	Carentan, France
Jackewicz, Blaise S.	LWA	18 August 1944	Plabennec, France
	LWA	4 July 1944	Chef Du Pont, France
Goldfine, Sidney	LWA	26 January 1944	Huldange, Luxembourg
	LWA	1 August 1944	Avranches, France
	LWA	20 April 1945	Weimar, Germany
Lorentz, George G., Jr.	LIA	9 July 1944	St. Jores, France
Kraemer, Francis J.	LWA	9 July 1944	St. Jores, France
German, Wilbur R.	LWA	19 July 1944	Carentan, France
Moore, Galion M.	SWA	24 July 1944	Carentan, France
Copeland, Vaughn	LWA	24 July 1944	Carentan, France
Berg, Glen J.	LWA	24 July 1944	Carentan, France
Rohan, Francis E.	LWA	1 August 1944	Avranches, France
Braulke, Albert F.	LWA	1 August 1944	Avranches, France
Angrisano, Paul	LWA	1 August 1944	Avranches, France
Celis, Joseph	LWA	1 August 1944	Avranches, France
Dixon, Roy D.	LWA	1 August 1944	Avranches, France
Pickett, Benjamin H.	LWA	1 August 1944	Avranches, France
Eastman, Clifford G., Jr.	LWA	1 August 1944	Avranches, France
Montoya, Isadore	LWA	1 August 1944	Avranches, France
Satoe, Theodore	LWA	1 August 1944	Avranches, France
Coviello, Conio J.	LWA	1 August 1944	Avranches, France
Foster, Horace M.	LWA	1 August 1944	Avranches, France
Bradbury, Wilson B.	KIA	1 August 1944	Avranches, France
Gray, L. T., Jr.	LWA	3 August 1944	Evrans, France
Williams, Clifford E.	LWA	7 August 1944	Lesneven, France
Sturgis, Olin A.	LWA	10 August 1944	Plouvien, France
Stewart, Francis	SWA	11 August 1944	Gouesneau, France
Pendrotti, Martin J.	LWA	11 August 1944	Gouesneau, France
Penley, James L.	LWA	11 August 1944	Gouesneau, France
Gerding, Amos H.	LWA	10 September 1944	Lambezellec, France
Lee, Vernon A.	LWA	10 September 1944	Lambezellec, France
Coe, James G.	LWA	10 September 1944	Lambezellec, France
Ray, Claude C.	LIA	10 September 1944	Lambezellec, France
Estep, Buffalo B.	LWA	11 September 1944	Lambezellec, France
Callaly, Hubert M.	SIA	2 December 1944	Berbourg, Luxembourg
Cartlidge, Marion C., Jr.	SWA	16 December 1944	Bech, Luxembourg
Shaw, Charles W.	LWA	16 December 1944	Bech, Luxembourg
Smith, Corbert K.	LWA	16 December 1944	Berbourg, Luxembourg
Hartin, Robert F.	LWA	16 December 1944	Bech, Luxembourg
Carlson, Glenn L.	LWA	16 December 1944	Bech, Luxembourg
Pentecost, Eugene	LWA	16 December 1944	Bech, Luxembourg
Novotni, Robert H.	LWA	16 December 1944	Bech, Luxembourg
Stovall, Eugene C.	LWA	16 December 1944	Bech, Luxembourg
Buhlman, Donald L.	LWA	16 December 1944	Berbourg, Luxembourg
Herfurth, James L.	KIA	16 December 1944	Berbourg, Luxembourg
Vokal, Leopold	SWA	17 December 1944	Bech, Luxembourg

A W A R D S

Levinškas, Joseph	SWA	17 December 1944	Bech, Luxembourg
Cousineau, Stanley J.	LWA	17 December 1944	Bech, Luxembourg
Fox, Alton C.	LWA	17 December 1944	Bech, Luxembourg
Laurendeou, John N.	LWA	17 December 1944	Bech, Luxembourg
Foote, Cyril M.	LWA	19 December 1944	Berbours, Luxembourg
Hawk, Walton	LWA	19 December 1944	Consdorf, Luxembourg
Villano, Dominic	LWA	19 December 1944	Consdorf, Luxembourg
Green, Ralph L.	LWA	24 December 1944	Bech, Luxembourg
Miceli, Anthony	LWA	8 February 1945	Irhen, Germany
Brooks, Harry	LWA	11 February 1945	Prum, Germany
Loyd, Merle L.	LWA	12 February 1945	Irhen, Germany
Aarlie, John P.	LWA	21 February 1945	Hollnich, Germany
Sudbrink, Richard W.	LIA	4 March 1945	Manderfeld, Belgium
Lehmkuhl, Elmer L.	LIA	4 March 1945	Manderfeld, Belgium
French, John H.	KIA	4 March 1945	Manderfeld, Belgium
Akins, James W.	KIA	4 March 1945	Manderfeld, Belgium
Jackson, Clarence	KIA	4 March 1945	Manderfeld, Belgium
Langley, Marshall A.	KIA	26 March 1945	St. Goar, Germany
Meese, Russell F.	SWA	26 March 1945	St. Goar, Germany
	DOW	29 March 1945	
Carpenter, George D.	LWA	8 April 1945	Dippach, Germany
Jones, Robert L.	KIA	8 April 1945	Dippach, Germany
Brown, Hughie A., Jr.	LWA	11 April 1945	Arnstadt, Germany
KIA Killed In Action		LIA Lightly Injured In Action	
SWA Seriously Wounded In Action		DOW Died Of Wounds	
LWA Lightly Wounded In Action		SIA Seriously Injured In Action	

BRONZE STAR MEDALS

1944

Sgt. Fleming, Bruce J.	GO 36, VIII Corps, 13 October
T/5 Pendrotti, Martin J.	GO 36, VIII Corps, 13 October
WOJG Proeschel, Robert L.	GO 37, VIII Corps, 16 October
Cpl. Watkins, John P.	GO 37, VIII Corps, 16 October
Pvt. Foster, Charles W.	GO 48, VIII Corps, 30 November
Pfc. Harmon, Cecil E.	GO 48, VIII Corps, 30 November
Pvt. Hendricks, Roy	GO 48, VIII Corps, 30 November
Pvt. Presitman, Vernon L.	GO 48, VIII Corps, 30 November

1945

Pvt. Neal, Thomas D.	GO 26, VIII Corps, 15 February
Capt. Jackewicz, Blaise S.	GO 184, 90 Inf. Div. 26 February
M/Sgt. Havrilla, Mike	GO 42, VIII Corps, 1 April
M/Sgt. Johnson, Joseph	GO 42, VIII Corps, 1 April
S/Sgt. Haugsrud, John L.	GO 42, VIII Corps, 1 April
S/Sgt. Hickey, Robert J.	GO 42, VIII Corps, 1 April
S/Sgt. Stinson, Archie H.	GO 42, VIII Corps, 1 April
Sgt. Corder, Charles E.	GO 42, VIII Corps, 1 April
Sgt. Hamon, Charles L.	GO 42, VIII Corps, 1 April
Sgt. Price, Donald H.	GO 43, VIII Corps, 7 April
Sgt. Sudbrink, Richard W.	GO 43, VIII Corps, 7 April
T/4 Gerding, Amos H.	GO 43, VIII Corps, 7 April

A P P E N D I X

Lt. Col. Langley, Marshall A.	GO 64, 6 Armd. Div., 8 April
Capt. Bagwell, Philip H.	GO 64, 6 Armd. Div., 8 April
Capt. Powers, James W.	GO 64, 6 Armd. Div., 8 April
Capt. Press, Harry A.	GO 64, 6 Armd. Div., 8 April
1st Lt. Cartlidge, Marion C.	GO 64, 6 Armd. Div., 8 April
Maj. McGehee, Gerald D.	GO 44, VIII Corps, 15 April
T/4 Ukrainiec, Michael	GO 44, VIII Corps, 15 April
T/5 Kenney, Delzel F.	GO 44, VIII Corps, 15 April
Maj. Snyder, Harry P.	GO 99, 3rd Army, 10 May
1st Lt. Reimann, William D.	GO 56, VIII Corps, 10 May
1st Sgt. Frantz, Manford W.	GO 56, VIII Corps, 10 May
Pfc. Fiore, Ralph C.	GO 56, VIII Corps, 10 May
Capt. Huggins, Harold I.	GO 57, VIII Corps, 11 May
Capt. Jackewicz, Blaise S.	GO 57, VIII Corps, 11 May
S/Sgt. Krupp, Charles H.	GO 57, VIII Corps, 11 May
Sgt. Earrey, Phillip B.	GO 103, 3rd Army, 14 May
1st Sgt. Papke, Edward C.	GO 105, 3rd Army, 15 May
T/5 Spencer, Raymond D.	GO 105, 3rd Army, 15 May
S/Sgt. Erbele, Arthur W.	GO 106, 3rd Army, 16 May
Pvt. McFarland, Wylie O.	GO 60, VIII Corps, 16 May
Sgt. Rutherford, George W.	GO 61, VIII Corps, 19 May
Sgt. Stovall, Eugene C.	GO 61, VIII Corps, 19 May
T/Sgt. Truly, George D.	GO 63, VIII Corps, 21 May
S/Sgt. Cooper, Everett, W.	GO 63, VIII Corps, 21 May
2nd Lt. Brooks, Harry	GO 65, VIII Corps, 23 May
S/Sgt. Rolando, Sirphin A.	GO 65, VIII Corps, 23 May
T/4 Gross, Ralph L.	GO 65, VIII Corps, 23 May
T/4 Keith, Everett C.	GO 65, VIII Corps, 23 May
Cpl. Aarlie, John P.	GO 65, VIII Corps, 23 May
T/4 Huber, Howard W.	GO 65, VIII Corps, 23 May
Cpl. Myers, Howard W.	GO 65, VIII Corps, 23 May
Cpl. Wilson, Franklin L.	GO 65, VIII Corps, 23 May
Capt. Powers, James W.	GO 116, 3rd Army, 24 May
Cpl. Sweitzer, Paul M.	GO 111, 3rd Army, 24 May
T/5 Brooks, Morris E.	GO 66, VIII Corps, 24 May
T/5 Crowell, Warren W.	GO 66, VIII Corps, 24 May
T/5 Dunbar, William K.	GO 66, VIII Corps, 24 May
T/5 Taylor, Emery	GO 66, VIII Corps, 24 May
Pfc. Johnson, Warren C.	GO 116, 3rd Army, 24 May
Pvt. Bridgeford, Eugene P.	GO 70, VIII Corps, 27 May
1st Lt. Poe, Eugene V.	GO 75, VIII Corps, 4 June
S/Sgt. Winkle, Albert K.	GO 75, VIII Corps, 4 June
S/Sgt. Hawkins, Marving G.	GO 150, 3rd Army, 23 June
T/3 Schmidt, Ramond F.	GO 150, 3rd Army, 23 June
1st Lt. Markham, Kenneth E.	GO 189, 3rd Army, 23 July
T/4 Hodge, Howard G.	GO 189, 3rd Army, 23 July
Cpl. Carter, Donald W.	GO 189, 3rd Army, 23 July
T/5 Grundy, Harry, Jr.	GO 189, 3rd Army, 23 July
Pfc. Herring, J. K.	GO 189, 3rd Army, 23 July
1st Lt. Donegan, Joseph J.	GO 190, 3rd Army, 24 July
Capt. Scott, Willie L.	GO 137, XX Corps, 6 August

A W A R D S

AIR MEDALS

1944

1st Lt. Gray, L. T.	GO 54, VIII Corps, 1 December
1st Lt. Kraemer, Francis J.	GO 54, VIII Corps, 1 December
1st Lt. Lorentz, George G.	GO 54, VIII Corps, 1 December
1st Lt. McNitt, Donald D.	GO 54, VIII Corps, 1 December

1945

1st Lt. Gray, L. T.	GO 41, VIII Corps, 31 March
1st Lt. Kraemer, Francis J.	GO 41, VIII Corps, 31 March
1st Lt. Lorentz, George G.	GO 41, VIII Corps, 31 March
1st Lt. McNitt, Donald D.	GO 41, VIII Corps, 31 March
1st Lt. McNitt, Donald D.	GO 117, 3rd Army, 26 May
1st Lt. Gray L. T.	GO 71, VIII Corps, 28 May
1st Lt. Kraemer, Francis J.	GO 71, VIII Corps, 28 May
1st Lt. Lorentz, George G.	GO 71, VIII Corps, 28 May
1st Lt. Gray, L. T.	GO 127, 3rd Army, 2 June
1st Lt. Kraemer, Francis J.	GO 127, 3rd Army, 2 June
1st Lt. Lorentz, George G.	GO 127, 3rd Army, 2 June
1st Lt. McNitt, Donald D.	GO 127, 3rd Army, 2 June

CROIX DE GUERRE

Lt. Col. Langley, Marshall A.

EMBARKATION ROSTER

174th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

CAMP SHANKS, NEW YORK, 25 FEB 1944

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

Lt. Col. Langley, Marshall A.
 Maj. Snyder, Harry P.
 Capt. McGehee, Gerald D.
 Capt. Powers, James W.
 1st Lt. Poe, Eugene V.
 1st Lt. Morris, William P.
 1st Sgt. Papke, Edgar C.
 Cpl. Linglebach, Ralph S.
 Pvt. Crosslin, Howard S.
 Pvt. Dougherty, William J., Jr.
 Pvt. Flanders, Cephas P.
 Pvt. Lee, You
 Pvt. Lem, Herman T.
 Pvt. Moore, Alfred L.
 Pvt. Prather, Gideon R.
 Pvt. Taglione, William C.
 Pvt. Varney, Bennett
 Pvt. Priestman, Vernon L.

Operations Platoon

1st Lt. Gray, L. T.
 2nd Lt. Lorentz, George G.
 M/Sgt. Sudbrink, Arthur A.
 T/Sgt. DeBolt, Robert L.
 S/Sgt. Burns, Glen A.
 T/4 Huber, Howard W.
 T/4 Ukrainiec, Michael
 Cpl. Bevill, James H.
 Cpl. Frost, William C.
 Cpl. Herring, J. K.
 T/5 Cosgrove, Charles T.
 T/5 Harmony, Roger M.
 T/5 Pickett, Benjamin H. Jr.
 Pfc. Carrigan, James H.
 Pfc. Kelly, Lester J.
 Pvt. Dortch, James H.
 Pvt. Dunbar, William K.
 Pvt. Frank, Jacob C.
 Pvt. Lovato, Jose P.
 Pvt. Van Aken, William
 S/Sgt. Messick, Wayne P.
 T/4 Wiseman, Irving M.
 Pfc. Fiore, Ralph C.
 Pfc. Moots, Jessie O.

Communications Platoon

2nd Lt. Smith, Franklin L.
 T/Sgt. Hendricks, Roy
 Sgt. Schneider, Frederick W.
 Cpl. Schaefenberg, Leonard N.
 S/Sgt. Cooper, Everett W.
 Cpl. Lillard, Bob
 Cpl. Watkins, John P.
 Cpl. Wilson, Franklin L.
 T/5 Brittain, Theodore R.
 T/5 Griffin, Darrell B.
 T/5 Hansen, William J.
 Pfc. Baker, Enos H. Jr.
 Pfc. Carter, Donald W.
 Pfc. Cukey, Joseph J.
 Pfc. Feltz, Ferdinand P.
 Pfc. Kubeck, Joseph B.
 Pfc. Ninehan, William J.
 Pvt. Bridgeford, Eugene P.
 Pvt. Foster, Charles W.
 Pvt. Kenney, Delzel F.
 Pvt. Laurendeau, John N.
 Pvt. LeBeau, Armand H.
 Pvt. McFarland, Wylie O.
 Pvt. Michnick, Joseph
 Pvt. Mitchell, Edward F.
 Pvt. Novotni, Robert H.
 Pvt. Pecorella, Francesco A.
 Pvt. Pentecost, Eugene
 Pvt. Smith, Kernie H.
 S/Sgt. Dunkel, Elmer H.
 T/4 Crawford, James G.
 T/4 Deltosto, Frederick S.
 T/4 Hodge, Howard G.
 T/4 Tipton, Walter H.
 Cpl. Jordan, James W.
 T/5 Licon, Edward M.
 Pfc. Herrmann, Paul E.
 Pvt. Cousineau, Stanley J.
 Pvt. Embich, Raymond J., Jr.
 Pvt. Koenig, Harold H.
 Pvt. McNeilly, Gordon A.
 Pvt. Schmidt, Raymond F.

EMBARKATION ROSTER

Maintenance Section

2nd Lt. Carlson, Alfred L.
WOJG Proeschel, Robert L.
S/Sgt. Boroughs, Herman
T/3 Mooneyham, Floyd J.
Sgt. Hutnik, John
T/4 Harmon, Cecil E.
T/4 Jarrell, Carlis B.
T/4 Sherill, Harland B.
T/5 Evans, Sewell W.
T/5 Green, Manuel L.

T/5 Haines, Roy E.
Pfc. Hartley, Ralph A.
Pvt. Caraker, Charles J.
Pvt. Feldman, Samuel D.
Pvt. Thibodeaux, Wade D.
Pfc. Kanarkiewicz, Walter J.
Pvt. Wilson J. C.
T/Sgt. Zuzy, William
T/4 Regan, Bert P.
T/5 Grundy, Harry Jr.
Pvt. Eastman, Clifford G.

BATTERY "A" 174th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Battery Headquarters

Capt. Stewart, Francis
1st Sgt. Jones, Samuel D.
Cpl. Dorsey, James D.
Pfc. Devol, Fred C.
Pfc. Durkee, Carl H.
Pvt. Cornelius, John D.
Pvt. Domer, Walter
Pvt. Holmes, Guy R.
Pvt. La Rocca, Louis
Pvt. Mason, Paul F.
Pvt. Slaughter, Dale V.
Pvt. Brooks, Albert A.

Detail Platoon

2nd Lt. McNitt, Donald D.
S/Sgt. Young, Ernest L.
T/4 Andrew, David W.
T/4 Penley, James L.
Cpl. Aarlie, John P.
Cpl. Copeland, U. Vaughn
Cpl. Kelley, James R.
Cpl. Mitchell, William J.
Cpl. Sampert, Leonard J.
T/5 Cheronka, John
T/5 Helmsley, Vertice R.
T/5 Henne, Lester A.
T/5 Margraf, Clarence A.
T/5 Pendrotti, Martin J.
T/5 Shedd, Leonard A.
T/5 Smith, Corbert K.
Pfc. Brown, Ambrose F.
Pfc. Capitelli, Peter
Pfc. Davidson, Charles F.
Pfc. Herfurth, James F.
Pfc. Lain, Charles E.

Pfc. Tucker, Francis H.
Pvt. Blanchette, Gerard A.
Pvt. Bulmahn, Donald L.
Pvt. Carlson, Theodore L.
Pvt. Eberts, Norman B.
Pvt. Kimbrough, Floyd D.
Pvt. Licchetti, Henry A.
Pvt. Ross, John P.
Pvt. Whitaker, Leonard J.

Firing Battery

1st Lt. Donegan, Joseph J.
T/4 Keith, Everett C.
T/5 Johnson, Warren C.
Sgt. Greenfield, Edgar
T/4 Forbus, Robert C. Jr.
Cpl. Christal, George G.
Cpl. Mauk, John
T/5 Jones, Edward C.
Pfc. Callaly, Hubert M.
Pfc. Callison, Sam W.
Pfc. Curry, Russell M.
Pvt. Basciano, Michael A.
Pvt. Dixon, Ray D.
Pvt. Roberts, George R.
Pvt. Wells, Jesse J.
S/Sgt. Rolando, Sirphin A.
T/4 Bailey, Everett J.
Cpl. Borchardt, Roland
Cpl. Griffith, Charles P.
T/5 Duffey, Clifford J.
Pfc. Bleiweiss, Eugene L.
Pfc. Foote, Cyril M.
Pfc. Isaac, George
Pvt. Clark, Harry R.
Pvt. Kennedy, Thomas F.

APPENDIX

Pvt. Sherland, Gordon S.
 Pvt. Thurber, Jack R.
 Sgt. Frantz, Manford W.
 T/4 Bradbury, Wilson B.
 Cpl. Manske, Roy J.
 Cpl. Rohan, Francis E.
 T/5 Smith, Marvin R.
 Pfc. Adams, Verner M.
 Pfc. Helin, Harold A.
 Pfc. Howland, Millarard L.
 Pfc. Sewell, Henry M.
 Pvt. Casiglia, Joseph F.
 Pvt. Goldfine, Sidney
 Pvt. Mills, Elmer O.
 Sgt. Price, Donald H.
 T/4 Loyd, Merle L.
 Cpl. Hamon, Charles L.
 Cpl. Cawley, Owen W.
 T/5 Gillin, John L.
 Pfc. Laymon, Grover Jr.
 Pvt. Braulke, Albert F.
 Pvt. Angrisano, Paul
 Pvt. Akers, Irvin W.
 Pvt. Dingler, Norman E.
 Pvt. Celis, Joseph

Pvt. Loveless, John R.
Maintenance Section
 2n Lt. Cartlidge, Marion C. Jr.
 Sgt. Hoffman, Darrel R.
 Cpl. Stevens, Albert F.
 T/5 Braucher, Arthur J.
 Pfc. Hagen, Howard A.
 Pfc. Smallwood, Clarence W.
 Pfc. Carpenter, Oran A.
 Pvt. Berg, Glen J.
 Pvt. Kasten, Charles E.
 Pvt. Kusnierz, Charles E.
 Pvt. Wallace, Howard V.
 S/Sgt. Brookman, Howard A.
 S/Sgt. Diercouff, Clarence L.
 S/Sgt. Spendoff, Donald J.
 T/4 Boes, Richard
 T/4 Haughn, Ivan E.
 T/4 Jones, Bert
 T/5 Taylor, Frederick J.
 Pfc. Kiley, Floyd A.
 Pfc. Newton, Lawrence E.
 Pfc. Taylor, Emery
 T/5 Boswell, Hugh B.

BATTERY "B" 174th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Battery Headquarters

Capt. Scott, Willie L.
 1st Sgt. Evans, Marvin
 Cpl. Coviello, Conio J.
 Pvt. Campbell, Stanley L.
 Pvt. D'Alessio, Thomas A.
 Pvt. Gonzales, Guadalupe L.
 Pvt. Grimm, Edward J.
 Pvt. Hamilton, Roy L.
 Pvt. Heady, Edward L.
 Pvt. Litz, George W. Jr.
 Pvt. Metras, Henry A.
 Pvt. Salgado, Manuel R. Jr.
 Pvt. Taylor, Robert E.

Detail Platoon

1st Lt. Markham, Kenneth E.
 S/Sgt. Villano, Dominic
 T/4 Fox, Alton C.
 T/4 Thompson, Joseph L.
 Cpl. Brown, Hughie A., Jr.
 Cpl. Coe, James G.
 Cpl. Meese, Russell F.
 Cpl. Olson, Arthur N.

Cpl. Rendef, Rudolph F.
 T/5 Cleveland, Willard D.
 T/5 Duesterhoeft, Ernst H.
 T/5 Gruendl, Carl L.
 T/5 Hicks, Walter E.
 T/5 Lehmkuhl, Elmer L.
 T/5 Sumrall, Clifton E.
 T/5 Wahl, Lloyd E.
 Pfc. Collum, Robert O.
 Pfc. Mattern, Harold T.
 Pfc. McCarthy, Edward A. Jr.
 Pfc. Noble, Charles E.
 Pfc. Williams, Edward M.
 Pvt. Behre, John W.
 Pvt. Brezinski, Edwin S.
 Pvt. Coker, Henry P.
 Pvt. Guidry, Clifford J.
 Pvt. Kuhnlohe, Robert C.
 Pvt. Mehr, Israel
 Pvt. Neale, Thomas D.
 Pvt. White, Walter E.
 Pvt. Hawk, Walton

EMBARKATION ROSTER

Firing Battery

1st Lt. Word, Ralph W.
 T/4 Roehl, Walter A.
 T/5 Richards, Stephen
 S/Sgt. Smith, Walter H.
 T/4 Schoewe, Donald R.
 Cpl. Clark, Delbert E.
 Cpl. French, John H.
 Pfc. Jackson, Clarence
 Pfc. Sampley, James O.
 Pvt. Akins, James W.
 Pvt. Bustamenta, Ysidro
 Pvt. Cirruto, Nicholas S.
 Pvt. Hust, Raymond J.
 Pvt. Johnson, James E.
 Pvt. Vess, Calvin E.
 Sgt. Sudbrink, Richard W.
 Sgt. Naderer, Robert L.
 Cpl. Gula, Patrick J.
 Cpl. Waldron, James R.
 Pfc. Koski, Raymond A.
 Pfc. Skeen, Loyd T.
 Pvt. Andrud, Fritz H.
 Pvt. Julian, Howard
 Pvt. Kimmel, David K.
 Pvt. Panighetti, Leo
 Pvt. Ritter, Leonard A.
 Sgt. Corder, Charles A.
 T/4 Goessens, Remie L.
 Cpl. Humphreys, Robert E.
 Cpl. Stedman, John L.
 T/5 Macy, Junior L.
 Pfc. Dierolf, Arthur
 Pfc. Furford, Leif O.
 Pfc. Johanson, Albert V.
 Pfc. Kilgore, Howard P.
 Pfc. Klebba, Alfred

Pvt. Hartin, Robert F.
 Sgt. Fleming, Bruce J.
 T/4 Gerding, Amos H.
 T/5 Tatum, Franklin E.
 Pfc. Bissen, Nick J.
 Pfc. Fritz, Albert J.
 Pfc. Gill, David H.
 Pfc. Guyer, Gilbert C.
 Pfc. Northington, John V.
 Pvt. Lee, Vernon A.
 Pvt. Leewright, Melvin C.
 Pvt. Shepard, Ellis H.
 Pvt. Urban, Albert
 Pfc. Estep, Buffalo B.

Maintenance Section

2nd Lt. Reimann, William D.
 Sgt. Earrey, Phillip B.
 Cpl. Ackerman, Gale L.
 T/5 Henderson, Arthur E. Jr.
 Pfc. Carlson, Glenn L.
 Pfc. Stuckey, Erving F.
 Pvt. Blasko, John M.
 Pvt. Godwin, Emmett
 Pvt. Slama, John
 Pvt. Swanson, Ernest H.
 Pvt. Webb, Lawrence K.
 S/Sgt. Hawkins, Marvin G.
 S/Sgt. Koelsch, Joseph W.
 S/Sgt. Winkle, Albert W.
 T/4 Erbele, Arthur W.
 T/4 Grimmer, Howard W.
 T/5 Ellson, Wallace C.
 T/5 Johnson, William E.
 T/5 Lowe, Wallace W.
 Pfc. Andrews, Harold S.
 Pfc. Bentley, Fred D.
 Pfc. Gerdesmeier, Alois G.

BATTERY "C" 174th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Battery Headquarters

Capt. Jackewicz, Blaise S.
 1st Sgt. Havrilla, Mike
 Pfc. Colbert, Earl R.
 Pfc. Salates, George
 Pvt. Carpenter, George D.
 Pvt. Baugher, Randolph L.
 Pvt. Davis, Floyd E.
 Pvt. Freeman, Porter P.
 Pvt. Link, William C.
 Pvt. Riggs, Albert C.
 Pvt. Whitaker, Kenneth M.

Pvt. Williams, Benjamin
 Pvt. Cantrell, Charles E.

Detail Platoon

1st Lt. Kraemer, Francis J.
 S/Sgt. Stinson, Archie H.
 T/4 Koverman, George R.
 T/4 Vokal, Leopold
 Cpl. Maycock, George H.
 Cpl. Murphy, John J.
 Cpl. Myers, Howard W.
 Cpl. Neeley, Verl O.
 Cpl. Richards, Earl O.

A P P E N D I X

Cpl. Shering, William P.
 T/5 DeDedda, Dominic F.
 T/5 McMillon, Alex
 T/5 Spencer, Raymond D.
 T/5 Stidham, Walter S.
 T/5 Sweitzer, Paul M.
 T/5 Teegardin, Plummer L.
 T/5 Tollefson, Pelmer
 T/5 Vugrinec, John F.
 T/5 Witte, Walter A.
 Pfc. Mazzarella, Giachino R.
 Pfc. Nichols, William A.
 Pfc. Taylor, R. B.
 Pfc. Woodbury, Fred M.
 Pvt. Branch, Claud
 Pvt. Cooksey, George C. Jr.
 Pvt. Kingsley, George B.
 Pvt. Possardt, Earl W.
 Pvt. Sorrentino, Alfred L.
 Pvt. Sturgis, Olin A.
 Pvt. Takamine, Jokichi III

Firing Battery

1st Lt. Bagwell, Philip H.
 T/4 Tanke, Theodore H.
 Pfc. Preston, Benjamin J.
 S/Sgt. Ducey, Harry C.
 T/4 Gilberts, Lawrence A.
 Cpl. Foster, L. C.
 Cpl. McCarty, Joe
 T/5 Carlson, Clifton A.
 Pfc. Giloy, Herbert E.
 Pfc. Goodman, Thomas B.
 Pfc. Luksa, John
 Pvt. Cordero, Robert R.
 Pvt. Decker, Robert E.
 Pvt. Montano, Joe
 Pvt. Morehouse, Merldean G.
 Sgt. Stovall, Eugene C.
 T/4 Tonnemacher, Charles E.
 Cpl. Edwards, Leldon W.
 Cpl. Majetich, William G.
 T/5 Linn, Vernon L.
 T/5 Rose, Raymond H.
 Pfc. Firl, Ira L.
 Pfc. Flannigan, Lyman B.
 Pfc. Herbert, Charles L.
 Pvt. Levinskas, Joseph
 Pvt. Lynch, Robert P.

Pvt. Sarris, James
 Sgt. Haugsrud, John L.
 T/4 Lamaster, Glen J.
 Cpl. Adams, Albert W.
 Cpl. Damron, Roger S.
 T/5 Meyer, Tony P.
 Pfc. Cowles, Lenrod E.
 Pfc. Dulaney, Robert E.
 Pfc. German, Wilbur R.
 Pfc. Melching, Walter C.
 Pfc. Ziegler, George J.
 Pvt. Durard, Cecil
 Pvt. Ryan, Joseph W.
 Sgt. Ray, Claude C.
 T/4 Mileham, Frederick G.
 Cpl. Linster, John J.
 Cpl. Satterfield, Henry H.
 T/5 Moore, Galion M.
 Pfc. Clements, Marvin T.
 Pfc. Fellers, Theodore L.
 Pfc. Peck, Joe C.
 Pvt. Black, Ura E.
 Pvt. Hoffman, Joseph R.
 Pvt. Sterling, Walter R.
 Pvt. Winship, Sylvanus D., Jr.

Maintenance Section

2nd Lt. Mosby, William R.
 Sgt. Rutherford, George W.
 Cpl. Mathews, Clarence O.
 Pfc. Ball, Everett L.
 Pfc. Macon, Earnest Q.
 Pfc. Tollison, Bunyon E.
 Pvt. Borkowski, George
 Pvt. Fialkovich, George
 Pvt. Jenson, Marion C.
 Pvt. Shaw, Charles W.
 S/Sgt. Crowell, Warren W.
 S/Sgt. Freerksen, George F.
 S/Sgt. Szpyrka, Edward A.
 T/4 Brisel, John H.
 T/4 Hilliard, James R.
 T/5 Fridley, Charles M.
 T/5 Halvorsen, Donald C.
 Pfc. McEnroe, Marvin N.
 Pfc. Nolan, Patrick J., Jr.
 Pvt. Kadas, Edward J.
 Pvt. Smith, William E.

EMBARKATION ROSTER

SERVICE BATTERY, 174th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Battery Headquarters

Capt. Klein, Kenneth G.
1st Sgt. Thielen, Francis C.
T/4 Paulson, Robert A.
Cpl. Foster, Horace M.
Pfc. Chambers, Edward E.
Pfc. Floyd, Gilbert W.
Pvt. Bamonti, O'Neill J.
Pvt. Collins, James F.
Pvt. O'Connor, Glenn L.
Pvt. Rutto, Edward S.

Service Platoon

Capt. Reid, Richard A.
M/Sgt. Johnson, Joseph
T/4 Gross, Ralph L.
T/4 Hoffman, Albert W.
T/4 LeJambre, Charles
T/4 Nickologanis, Peter N.
T/4 Rigney, Kieran G.
Cpl. Davis, Raymond E.

Cpl. Waters, Howard L.
T/5 Barkman, Frank E.
T/5 Kouri, Antoine G.
Pfc. Tudor, Elmer S.
Pvt. Reilly, Rexford G.
T/Sgt. Truly, George D.
S/Sgt. Krupp, Charles H.
T/5 Brooks, Morris E.
T/5 Williams, Clifford E.
Pfc. Gilliam, Bob F.
S/Sgt. White, Robert L.
Cpl. Mampel, Robert C.
T/4 Jones, Kenneth D.
T/5 Jellison, Ivan R.
T/5 McCans, James C.
Pvt. Cogan, Jack W.
Pvt. Gaither, Earnest E.
Pvt. Mosier, Alonzo J.
Pvt. Meredith, James R.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT, 174th FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Capt. Press, Harry A.
S/Sgt. Brannon, Robert O.
T/3 Wekszner, Frank P.
T/4 Hickey, Robert J.
Cpl. Montoya, Isadore
T/5 Carta, George J.

T/5 Yodice, John L.
Pfc. Collum, Nathan W.
Pfc. Satoe, Theodore
Pfc. Seiler, Lee R.
Pvt. Lengio, Salvatore
Pvt. Miceli, Anthony.

HOME ADDRESSES

ALABAMA

Baker, Enos H., Jr.		Eufaula
Carnelius, John D.		Altoona
Clements, Marvin T.	542 Eufaula St.	Eufaula
Coker, Henry P.	RFD No. 3	Florence
Edwards, Leldon W.		Alexander City
Freeman, Porter P.	RFD No. 1, Box 201	Anniston
Goodman, Thomas B.		Carrollton
Key, Erskine C., Jr.	1800 1st Ave.	Jasper
Mitchell, William J.	RFD No. 2	Tuscumbia
Powers, James W.	640 S. 40th St.	Birmingham
Ray, Claude C.	216 Stewart St.	Andalusia
Sampley, James O.	RFD No. 1	Fort Payne
Smith, Corbert K.	RFD No. 1	Killen
Smith, Kernie H.	RFD No. 4	Andalusia
Stinson, Archie H.	RFD No. 1	Garland

ARIZONA

Caraker, Charles		Tolleson
Schulenberg, James E.	1107 E. Lowell Ave.	Tucson

ARKANSAS

Cowles, Leonard E.		Hasty
Decker, Robert E.		Mountain View
Green, Ralph L.	523 Division St.	Texarkana
Hamon, Charles L.	P. O. Box 1157	Hot Springs
Sutton, Lester L.	208 Senator St.	Texarkana

CALIFORNIA

Andrew, David W.	537 Michigan Blvd.	Pasadena
Barkman, Frank E.	1604 White Ave.	Fresno 2
Copeland, U. Vaughn	1032 La Verne Ave.	Los Angeles
Cordero, Robert R.	1209 Blanchard Ave.	Santa Barbara
Estep, Buffalo B.	General Delivery	Arvin
Foote, Cyril M.		Linden
Forbus, Robert C., Jr.	Poso Land & Produce	Wasco
Goessens, Remie L.	RFD No. 4, Box 776	Santa Ana
Hicks, Walter E.	2017½ S. Hoover St.	Los Angeles
Humphreys, Robert E.	Box 1091	Lancaster
Licon, Edward M.	3446 E. 8th St.	Los Angeles
McEnroe, Marvin N.	784 Freeman St.	Long Beach
Newton, Lawrence E.	140 N. Vista	Los Angeles
Nicholls, Jack	1912 E. 19th St.	Long Beach 6
Montoya, Isadore	RFD No. 1, Box 205	Orange
Poe, Eugene V.	412 Decatur St.	Oildale
Preston, Benjamin J.	1178 N. Madison Ave.	Los Angeles 27
Salgado, Frank L.	2722½ E. 4th St.	Los Angeles 33
Sewell, Henry M.	747 E. 75th St.	Los Angeles 1
Smith, Frank L.	323 E. 93rd St.	Los Angeles
Stillion, James J.	Muir Beach Tavern	Sausilito

HOME ADDRESSES

COLORADO

Barron, Edmond G., Jr.	2539 W. 34th Ave.	Denver
Ortega, Joe J.	General Delivery	Capulin
Majetich, William G.	Box 143	Walsenburgh

CONNECTICUT

Gaynor, Edward J.	231 Bridgeport Ave.	Shelton
Possardt, Earl W.	RFD No. 1	Stafford Springs

FLORIDA

Branch, Claud		Sumatra
Carpenter, Oran A.	RFD No. 5, Box 538	Orlando
Dorsey, James D.	Box 15	Glenwood
Lange, Aaron S.	Box 284	Zephyr Hills

GEORGIA

Adams, Verner M.	RFD No. 1	Sautee
Griffith, Charles P.		Norwood
Hawkins, Marvin G.	325 Edwards St.	Monroe
Johnson, William E.		Pearson
Mallory, Wilfred M.	RFD No. 2	La Grange
McDonald, Roy C.	RFD No. 9	Gainesville
Peck, Joe C.		Murrayville
Shepard, Ellis H.	306 W. Thompson St.	Thomaston

IDAHO

Neeley, Verl O.	RFD No. 2	Preston
-----------------	-----------	---------

ILLINOIS

Akers, Irvin W.	614 N. 4th St.	Quincy
Clark, Delbert E.	RFD No. 2	Plymouth
Brezinski, Edwin S.	4151 Kamerling Ave.	Chicago
DeBolt, Robert L.	2130 W. Agatite St.	Chicago 25
c/o H. D. Mulloy		
Diercough, Clarence		Thawville
Doornkaat, John	904 W. 85th St.	Chicago
Dulaney, Robert E.	214 E. Washington Ave.	Flora
Dunbar, William K.	102 W. Ash St.	Normal
Flannigan, Lyman B.	RFD No. 1	Chester
Floyd, Gilbert W.		Meredosia
Gross, Ralph L.	204 S. Market St.	Washington
Gruendl, Carl E.	5818 W. Byron St.	Chicago, 34
Halvorsen, Donald C.	6142 W. North Ave.	Chicago
Henne, Lester A.	1009 Sard Ave.	Aurora
Holmes, Guy R.	RFD No. 1	Lacon
Huber, Howard W.	560 N. 18th St.	E. St. Louis
Jachim, Henry J.	8341 Burley Ave.	Chicago
Kanarlievicz, Walter J.	4742 S. Loomis St.	Chicago
Kelly, James R.	722 Kansas St.	Peoria
Kuhnlohe, Robert C.	1700 School St.	Chicago 13
Lorefice, Ignatius	3238 W. 55th St.	Chicago
Lorentz, George G.	11352 S. Oakley	Chicago
Luksa, John	1718 N. Keeler St.	Chicago

A P P E N D I X

Murphy, John J.	2946 W. Monroe St.	Chicago
Olson, Arthur N.		Hennepin
Rendek, Rudolph F.	3256 Maple Ave.	Berwyn
Ross, John P.	606 State St.	Peoria
Sakowski, Daniel S.	2128 N. Keystone Ave.	Chicago
Slama, John	5235 S. Sacramento	Chicago
Skeitzer, Paul M.		Cobden
Tanke, Theodore J.	423 W. 99th St.	Chicago
Taylor, Robert E.	419 Market Ave.	E. St. Louis
Van Blair, Lawrence C.	2505 State St.	Quincy
Ziegler, George J.	407 Jewett St.	Elgin

INDIANA

Bentley, Fred D.	21 N. New Jersey St.	Indianapolis
Bridgford, Eugene P.	1903 N. "A" St.	Richmond
Burns, Glen A.		Brownsburg
Carpenter, George D.	910 S. Anderson St.	Elwood
Carter, Donald W.	655 E. State St.	Hammond
Davidson, Charles E.	RFD No. 1	Modoc
Dortch, James H.	2736 Mars Hill Rd.	Indianapolis
Frantz, Manford W.	552 Washington St.	Gary
German, Wilbur R.	537 Garfield St.	Gary
Gillin, John L.	307 S. Horace St.	Jasonville
Helin, Harold A.	253 Michigan Ave.	Hobart
Heady, Edward L.	714 N. Fairview St.	Bloomington
Tonnemacher, Charles E.	218 W. Missouri St.	Evansville
Williams, Vernon C.	RFD No. 1	Rensselaer

IOWA

Binnebose, Earl E.	4315 Springfield	Sioux City
Bissen, Nick J.		Erling
Brisel, John H.	Box 184	Baxter
Carlson, Alfred L.		Swedesburg
Freerksen, George F.		Kanawha

KANSAS

Fellers, Theodore L.		Hugoton
Reilly, Rexford G.	1010 N. State St.	Norton
Richards, Earl K.	1707 N. Madison	Hutchinson
Wilson, J. C.	c/o Vallie Wilson	Richfield

KENTUCKY

Boswell, Hugh B.	RFD No. 2	Morganfield
Bukowski, Ferdinand J.		Lakeland
Cantrell, Charles E.	RFD No. 3	Hodgenville
c/o Rev. L. B. Contrell		
Damron, Roger S.		Riggs
Jones, Bert		Garrard
LaMaster, Glen J.	111 N. Ford St.	Corbin
Laymon, Grover, Jr.	210 S. 10th St.	Middlesboro
Markham, Kenneth E.		Sturgis
Satterfield, Henry H.	RFD No. 1	Lamasco
Spencer, Raymond D.	E. Armstrong St.	Combs
Stidham, Walter S.		Combs
Varney, Bennett		Kimper

HOME ADDRESSES

LOUISIANA

Angrisano, Paul	96 Fourth St.	Marrero
Brown, Ambrose F.	4529 Shelly Dr.	Baton Rouge 5
Cooksey, George C., Jr.	6011 Hurst St.	New Orleans 15
Crawford, James G.	1506 Letitia St.	Baton Rouge
Godwin, Emmett	RFD No. 2	Chestnut
Guidry, Clifford J.	RFD No. 3, Box 283	Lake Charles
Jones, Kenneth D.	2432 Edgar St.	Shreveport
Morris, William P.	2411 Line Ave.	Shreveport
Price, Donald H.	627 Mouton St.	Baton Rouge
Thibodeaux, Wade D.	RFD No. 1, Box 230	Breaux Bridge

MAINE

Seamon, Leonard

Wiscasset

MARYLAND

Brooks, Albert A.	1840 Gough St.	Baltimore
Domer, Walter	5 N. Clinton St.	Baltimore
Johnson, Orville L.		Fruitland
Koelker, Robert C.	4 Broadway Circle	Cumberland
Truly, George D.	28 Hope Rd.	Frostburg

MASSACHUSETTS

Cormier, Joseph A., Jr.	Cherry St.	Uxbridge
Blanchette, Gerrard A.	11 Kingsbury St.	Worcester 3
Goldman, Paul M.	46 Mile St.	Newton
Hartin, Robert F.	20 Palsley Pk.	Dorchester
Kenney, Delzel F.	13 Hayward St.	Attleboro
Kingsley, George B.	227 Essex St.	Beverly
Kusnierz, Edward	27 Elm St.	Holyoke
Laurendeou, John N.	15 Hancock St.	Everett
LeBeau, Armand H.	Box 356	East Douglas
Metras, Henry A.	47 Chestnut St.	Quincy
Mitchell, Edward F.	182 Chelsea St.	Charlestown
Moore, Alfred L.	107 Saratoga St.	East Boston 28
Nickologanis, Peter N.	29 Brisette St.	Dracut
Pecorella, Francesco A.	23 Clark St.	Boston
Priestman, Vernon L.	433 Merrimac St.	Newburyport
Press, Harry A.	598 Tylor St.	Pittsfield
Robecheau, Peter N.	34 Milton N. E.	Boston
Salgado, Manuel R., Jr.	74 Hunter St.	Fall River
Smith, William E.	Cross St.	S. Hanover
Sorrentino, Alfred L.	51 Walnut St.	Arlington
Stone, James R.	23 Clark St.	Boston 13
Sturgis, Olin A.		Pittsfield
Winship, Sylvanus D., Jr.	1 Circuit Ave.	Worcester

MICHIGAN

Cousineau, Stanley J.	109 Island View	Munising
Durkee, Carl H.	25 National N. W.	Grand Rapids
Fiore, Ralph C.	5291 French Rd.	Detroit 13
Frincke, Frederick H.	38 Wellesley Dr.	Pleasant Ridge
Gould, William C.	RFD No. 1	Sandlake
Hutnik, John	3903 Cicotte St.	Detroit 10
Klebba, Alfred	6403 Newhall St.	Detroit 11

APPENDIX

Kouri, Antoine G.
Mills, Elmer O.
Morehouse, Merldean G.
McNitt, Donald D.
Szpyrka, Edward A.
Taglione, William C.
Vokal, Leopold

2441 Gladstone St.
3466 Springle St.
RFD No. 1
3149 Burcham Dr.
20201 W. Warren Ave.
11018 Chelsea St.
4090-35th St.

Detroit 6
Detroit 14
Richland
E. Lansing
Detroit
Detroit 5
Detroit

MINNESOTA

Aarlie, John P.
Borchardt, Roland A.
Duesterhoeft, Ernst H.
Ellson, Wallace C.
Gerdesmeier, Alois G.
Hagen, Howard A.
Manske, Roy J.
Meyer, Tony P.
Reimann, William D.
Tollefson, Pelmer

RFD No. 4

211 E. Mulberry St.
106 First Ave. N. E.
RFD No. 3
261 S. Warwick St.
RFD No. 2

Sandstone
Prior Lake
Hutchinson
Askor
Rosemount
Stillwater
Crosby
Little Falls
St. Paul
Hinckley

MISSISSIPPI

Bevill, James H.
Colbert, Earl R.
Earry, Phillip B.
Fountain, Floyd G.
Kimbrough, Floyd D.
LeFontaine, Clifton O.
Masom, Paul F.
Nolan, Wash A.
Penley, James L.
Pickett, Benjamin H., Jr.
Sumrall, Clifton E.
Thompson, Joseph L.

RFD No. 5
833 N. Jefferson St.
RFD No. 3

329 Idlewild St.
228 Washington St.

1314 Grove St.
314 Canty St.
910 River Ave.
437 Hooker St.

Lexington
Jackson
Shannon
Biloxi
Jackson
Bay St. Louis
Vossburg
Hardy Station
Vicksburg
Pascagoula
Hattiesburg
Jackson

MISSOURI

Andrews, Harold S.
Bell, Russell G.
Duffey, Clifford J.
Guyer, Gilbert C.
Hodge, Howard G.
Macy, Junior L.
Moots, Jesse O.
McGinley, Leonard D.
Rose, Raymond H.
Wade, Wallace B.
White, Walter E.
Wiseman, Irving M.
Witte, Walter A.
Woolery, Fred M.

RFD No. 2

RFD No. 1
RFD No. 1

RFD No. 1
3925 Windsor
6229 Southwood Ave.
2807 S. Jefferson St.
3715 E. 29th St.

Maysville
Steelville
Sweet Springs
Oregon
Beaufort
Granby
Green Castle
Gideon
Kidder
Republic
Kansas City 1
St. Louis
St. Louis
Kansas City 3

MONTANA

Prather, Gideon R.
Tipton, Walter H.

801 N. Rouse St.
1042 N. Ewing St.

Bozeman
Helena

HOME ADDRESSES

NEBRASKA

Brittain, Theodore R.
Herbert, Charles L.
Mattern, Harold T.
Schmidt, Raymond F.

621½ W. 11th St.

North Platte
Palisade
Burwell
St. Helena

NEW JERSEY

Braulke, Albert F.
Cirruto, Nicholas S.
Deltosto, Fred
Donegan, Joseph J.
Dingler, Norman E.
Dwyer, William J.
Grundy, Harry, Jr.
Gula, Patrick J.
Haugsrud, John L.
Herrmann, Paul E.
Kasten, Charles E.
Leewright, Melvin C.
LeJambre, Charles
Lynch, Robert P.
Takamine, Jokichi, III
Carlson, Theodore L.
Thompson, Howard B.
Usas, Frank
Van Aken, William
Vervaet, Joseph A., Jr.

107 Stone St.
11 Edison St.
388 Woodlawn Ave.
104 Gould Ave.
315 Wilson St.
1502-43rd St.
480 Droemus Ave.
117 E. Flagg St.
66 Ellis Ave.
62 Rockwood Rd.
495 Morse Ave.
67 Irving Ave.

Maywood
Bloomfield
Jersey City
Paterson
Perth Amboy
North Bergen
Glen Rock
Rockaway
Irvington
Madison
Ridgefield
Livingston
Jackobstown
Orange
Ridgewood
Bloomfield
Chester
Paterson
Erlton
Haledon

YMCA

265 Mountain Ave.
40 Lawrence St.
Grove St.
104 Pittman Ave.
24 Conwell Ave.
32 John St.

NEW MEXICO

Bustamante, Ysidor
Cartlidge, Marion C.
Foster Horace M.
Hawk, Walton
Lavato, Jose P.
McCarty, Joe
Montano, Joe

c/o Miss Lupe Bustamante
RFD No. A
1303 W. Gold St.

La Mesa
Hobbs
Albuquerque
San Christobal
Albuquerque
Magdalena
Socorro

Box 903

NEW YORK

Bamonti, O'Neill J.
Basciano, Michael A.
Behre, John W.
Bleiweiss, Eugene L.
Borkowski, George
Brooks, Harry
Bulmahn, Donald L.
Capitelli, Peter
Carta, George J.
Casiglia, Joseph L.
Celis, Joseph
Collins, James F.
Collum, Natan W.
Corkey, Herbert J.
D'Alessio, Thomas A.

205 E. 118th St.
265 W. Lincoln Ave.
959-56th St.
1162 Garrison Ave.
RFD No. 5
110 Jefferson St.
234 Franklin St.
344 E. 62nd St.
911 Albany St.
5311-12th Ave.
462 Sackett St.
3161-43rd St.
Box 1041
116-29-148 St.
576 Sackett St.

New York City
Mt. Vernon
Brooklyn
Bronx 59, NYC
Lowville
Baldwin, L. I.
Tonawanda
New York City
Schenectady
Brooklyn 19
Brooklyn 31
Long Island, NYC
East Hampton
S. Ozone Park
Brooklyn

APPENDIX

DeDadda, Dominic F.	2537 Amsterdam Ave.	New York City
Desiata, John F.	210 Lilac St.	Syracuse
Feldman, Samuel D.	2839 Brighton 6th St.	Brooklyn
Fialkovich, George	5 E. Main St.	Granville
Friedrich, Josef L.	124 Ashnorth Pl.	Syracuse 10
Frost, William C.	132-27-220th St.	Springfield Gds. L. I.
Goldfine, Sidney	1109 Clay Ave.	Bronx 56, NYC
Green, Manuel L.	Rock City Falls	New York
Grimm, Edward J.	32-60-44th St.	New York
Hasfurter, Elmer M.	Box 183	Alten
Hickey, Robert J.	127 Prospect St.	Schenectady
Jackewicz, Blaise S.		Calverton, L. I.
Kennedy, Thomas L.	616 W. 182nd St.	New York City
Kimmel, David K.	1500 Kensington Ave.	Buffalo
Koenig, Harold H.	4332 Matilda Ave.	Bronx, NYC
Kraft, Stanley P.	18 Porter St.	Fredonia
LaRocca, Louis	1051-58th St.	Brooklyn
Lem, Herman T.		New York City
Lengio, Salvatore	3223-32nd St.	Astoria, L. I.
Lindemann, Felix	4556-42nd St.	Long Island City
Lintz, George W.	69 Kingston Pl.	Buffalo
Mazzarella, Giachino R.	2227-37th St.	Astoria, L. I.
Maycock, George H.	714 Elm St.	Rome
Mehr, Israel	257 Hopper St.	Brooklyn
Micelli, Anthony	23-53-38 St.	Long Is. City 5, N. Y.
McCarthy, Edward A., Jr.	41 Roebling Ave.	Buffalo
McNeilly, Gordon A.	Hoosick	New York
Neale, Thomas D.	28 Maple Hill Dr.	Larchmont
Rigney, Kieran G.	54-45-80th St.	Elmhurst
Rohan, Francis E.	577 Morgan Ave.	Brooklyn
Rolando, Sirphin A.	807 Neill Ave.	Bronx 60, NYC
Rutto, Edward L.	390 Long Beach Rd.	Oceanside Long Island
Ryan, Joseph W.	232 E. 122nd St.	New York City
Salatas, George	8 Whitman St.	Bellmore
Sarris, James	905 Emmet St.	Schenectady
Schafenberg, Leonard N.	427 Linden Blvd.	Brooklyn 3
Schneider, Frederick W.	160 S. Meddle Neck Rd.	Great Neck
Sherland, Gordon S.	191-52-116th Ave.	St. Albans
Shonkoff, Joshua J.	165 Langham St.	Brooklyn
Shonkoff, William D.	165 Langham St.	Brooklyn
Southard, Norman S.	1 Golfwood Court	Inwood, L. I.
Spinard, Bernard M.		Jefferson Valley
Taylor, Frederick J.	17 W. 89th St.	New York 24
Tucker, Francis H.	160 Hamilton St.	Albany
Villano, Dominic	1208 Bay St.	Rosebank (Staten Is.)
Wallace, Howard V.		Pottersville
Wekszner, Frank	20 North St.	Schenectady
Williams, Benjamin	RFD No. 1	Altona
Yodice, John L.	2158 Bergin St.	Brooklyn
	NORTH CAROLINA	
Ball, Everett L.	58 Cascade St.	Mooresville
Lucas, Clinton A.	RFD No. 1	Bailey

HOME ADDRESSES

Messick, Wayne P.
Russell, John V.
Walsh, Vance W.
Whitaker, Leonard J.

621 W. 27th St.
RFD No. 1

Norcost Mill, RFD No. 3
NORTH DAKOTA

Winston Salem
Boomer
Denny
Concord

Ackerman, Gale L.
Andrud, Fritz H.
Carlson, Clifton A.
Erbele, Arthur W.
Hust, Raymond J.
Linster, John J.

Box 194

Wimbledon
Kathryn
Gilby
Wishek
Median
Berthold

OHIO

Braucher, Arthur J.
Boes, Richard A.
Black, Ura E.
Brookman, Howard A.
Burnett, Robert M.
Clark, Harry R.
Cooper, Everett W.
Corder, Charles A.
Crowell, Warren W.
Cukec, Joseph J.
Curry, Russell M.
Davis, Raymond E.
Devol, Fred C.
Ducy, Harry C.
Dunkel, Elmer H.
Evans, Marvin
Fleming, Bruce J.
Fox, Alton C.
Fritz, Albert J.
Gerding, Amos H.
Grimmer, Howard W.
Havrilla, Mike
Hendricks, Roy
Hilliard, James R.
Hoffman, Derrel R.
Haines, Roy E.
Harmony, Roger M.
Haughn, Ivan E.
Hutnik, John
Isaac, George
Johnson, Joseph
Kadas, Edward J.
Kelley, Lester, J.
Kiley, Floyd A.
Koverman, George R.
Krupp, Charles H.
Lingelbach, Ralph S.
Koelsch, Joseph W.
Mampel, Robert C.

RFD No. 1
RFD No. 1
RFD No. 2
229 E. Eagle St.
535 High St.
RFD No. 5
Box 72
817 Central St.
526 E. Washington St.
21 S. Dunlap Ave.
RFD Box 125
2427-6th St. S. W.
348 W. 2nd Ave.
RFD No. 2 Sta. B, Box 640
1012 Putnam St.
531 E. Washington St.
RFD No. 1
130 E. Market St. Apt 10

RFD No. 2
130 E. Market St.
RFD No. 2

RFD No. 1
428 Park Ave.
125 S. Howard St.
446 W. High St.
Box 5
2030 Clark Ave.
5935 Storer Ave.
367 Ridge Ave.
1417 Buckingham St.
Box 385
300 Ashland Rd.
RFD No. 2, Box 280-A
344 W. Tiffin St.
734 State St.
1923 S. Pearl St.
13316 Gainsboro Ave.

Willard
Alvada
Cheshire
Fostoria
Washington C. H.
Upper Sandusky
Arcadia
Sandusky
Sandusky
Youngstown
Edgerton
Canton
Columbus
Toledo
Sandusky
Sandusky
Sandusky
Sandusky
Sandusky
Ottawa
Sandusky
Vermillion
Dayton
Berlin Heights
Fostoria
Sabina
Alliance
Kansas
Alliance
Cleveland 2
Newton Falls
Toledo
Bellaire
Mansfield
Dayton
Fostoria
Vermillion
Sandusky
E. Cleveland

APPENDIX

Margraf, Clarence A.
 Mileham, Frederick G.
 Myers, Howard W.
 Naderer, Robert L.
 Noble, Charles E.
 Nolan Patrick J., Jr.
 Papke, Edgar C.
 Proeschel, Robert L.
 Radcliffe, Charles E.
 Roehl, Walter A.
 Schering, William P.
 Schoewe, Donald R.
 Seiche, Paul
 Shaw, Charles W.
 Shea, James E.
 Smith, Walter H.
 Smith, Robert M.

c/o Herbert Dennis

Snyder, Harry P.
 Spenthoff, Donald J.
 Sudbrink, Arthur A.
 Sudbrink, Richard W.
 Teegardin, Plummer L.
 Thielen, Francis C.
 Ukrainiec, Michael
 Wahl, Lloyd E.
 Waldron, James R.
 White, Robert L.
 Williams, Clifford E.
 Wilson, Franklin L.
 Winkle, Albert K.
 Yong, Ernest L.
 Zusy, William T.

RFD No. 2
 Box 46
 RFD No. 11
 RFD No. 1

 14012 Ardemall Ave.
 810 Tyler St.
 26628 E. Oviatt Rd.
 134 N. 2nd St.
 1301 Mills St.
 3311-12th St.
 RFD No. 2
 2115 Superior St.
 RFD No. 1
 175 S. Eureka Ave.
 2219 Camp St.
 RFD No. 2

292 S. Main St.
 614 Oliver St.
 1519 Perkins Ave.
 RFD No. 1

1406 Fernwood Ave.
 559 Morgan Ave.
 RFD No. 2
 91 South St.
 238 Licking St.
 1716 Charles St.

1419 W. 77th St.

 10738 Elmarge Rd.

Sycamore
 Huron
 Dayton
 Sandusky
 Windson
 Cleveland
 Sandusky
 Bay Village
 Coshocton
 Sandusky
 N. W. Canton
 Sandusky
 Sandusky
 Newcomerstown
 Columbus 4
 Sandusky
 Crooksville

Mansfield
 Toledo 4
 Sandusky
 Milan
 Columbus Grove
 Toledo 7
 Akron
 Vickery
 Berlin Heights
 Toledo
 Portsmouth
 Aid
 Cleveland 2
 Republic
 Cleveland 5

OKLAHOMA

Brannon, Robert O.
 Brooks, Morris E.
 Callison, Sam W.
 Carrigan, James C.
 Cawley, Owen W.
 Chambers, Edward E.
 Coe, James G.
 Elliot, James H.
 Foster, L. C.
 Gaither Earnest E.
 Greenfield, Edgar
 c/o G. Greenfield
 Griffin, Darrell B.
 Hamilton, Roy L.
 Harmon, Cecil E.
 Jellison, Ivan R.
 Jones, Samuel D.

RFD No. 2
 Gen. Del.
 RFD No. 3, Box 309-A

 RFD No. 1

 RFD No. 3, Box 130
 RFD No. 2
 RFD No. 2, Box 223
 RFD No. 2

 Box 227
 28 S. W. 41st St.
 Box 63

 RFD No. 1, Box 311

Dustin
 Coweta
 Nowata
 Seminole
 Fort Townson
 Bennington
 Bokchito
 Oklahoma City
 Rush Springs
 Muskogee
 Salisaw

 Kiowa
 Oklahoma City
 Poca City
 Chester
 Oklahoma City

HOME ADDRESSES

Klein, Kenneth G.	904 Hackberry St.	Duncan
Kraemer, Francis J.	4000 W. 34th St.	Oklahoma City
Lillard, Bob	RFD No. 1	Spiro
Loyd, Merle L.	Box 444	Lexington
Mauk, John	RFD No. 2	Nowata
Moore, Galion M.	Box 662	Durant
McCans, James C.		Sapulpa
McCulley, George F.	1210 E. 1st St.	Tulsa
McGehee, Gerald D.	233 Jefferson St.	Seminole
McMillon, Alex	502 S. First St.	Morris
Satoe, Theodore	Box 343	Mt. View
Shedd, Leonard A.	602 W. First St.	Hominey
Sherill, Harland F.	Box 152	Meeker
Smith, Marvin R.	RFD No. 3	Stigler
Stuckey, Erving F.	324 W. 2nd St.	Wewaka
Taylor, Emery	Gen. Del.	Steward
Tollison, Bunyon E.	Box 164	Bradley
Watkins, John P.	Star Route	Alex
Word, Ralph W.	RFD No. 3	Altus
OREGON		
Johnson, Warren C.	333 N. W., 17th Ave.	Portland
Keith, Everett C.	73 Grove St.	Lebanon
Loveless, John R.	RFD No. 2	Elgin
c/o Harry V. Hicks		
Sampert, Leonard R.	3727 S. E. Cora St.	Portland
Vess, Calvin E.	3210 Fourth St.	LaGrande
PENNSYLVANIA		
Adams, Albert W.	123 E. Market St.	Williamstown
Aloi, Frank J.	Box 31	Starford
Blasko, John M.	105 Main St.	Maryd
Cheronka, John	234 Monroe St.	Philadelphia
Cogan, Jack W.	Narvon RFD No. 2	Lancaster
Cosgrove, Charles T.	1 Crow Ave.	Uniontown
Coviello, Cino J.	518 Warren St.	Dunmore
Dougherty, William J., Jr.	812 S. Schiller St.	Philadelphia
Eberts, Norman B.	1258 Miller St.	Harrisburg
Embich, Raymond J., Jr.	372 N. 10th St.	Lebanon
Gressens, Paul H.	1627 Spruce St.	Ashland
Hoffman, Albert W.		Wiconisco
Hoffman, Joseph M.		Gratz
Hubstenberger, Felix J.	116 Santron Ave. Charrick	Pittsburgh 10
c/o Margaret Manko		
Hyle, Robert E.	911-27th Ave.	Altoona
Kubeck, Joseph B.	409 Third St.	Taylor
Lechett, Henry A.	1535 S. 9th St.	Philadelphia
Lee, You	Roosevelt Blvd. & Ger- man Lane, Torresdale	Philadelphia 14
Levinskas, Joseph	1535 Merlert Ave.	Scranton
Mackiewicz, Frank J.	731 Boulevard Ave.	Dickson City
Meredith, James R.	7323 Ogontz Ave.	Philadelphia 38
Micknick, Joseph	425 Third St.	Taylor

APPENDIX

McFarland, Wylie O.
 Nineham, William J.
 Novotni, Robert H.
 O'Connor, Glenn L.
 Panighetti, Leo
 Pendrotti, Martin J.
 Reid, Richard A.
 Ritter, Leonard A.
 Sassano, Nicholas M.
 Scheiry, Levern P.
 Schultz, Joseph A.
 Suda, Gerald J.
 Urban, Albert
 Vugrinec, John F.
 Webb, Lawrence K.
 Whitaker, Kenneth M.
 Williams, Edward M.
 Wolff, Richard

541 Grant St.
 1439 N. Main Ave.
 15 Manchester Ave.

Box 74
 Box 293
 908 Blythe Ave.
 409 Mill St.
 3827 Broad Ave.
 621 M. St.
 491 W. Pine Ave.
 407 Carver St.
 242 E. 17th Ave.
 557 S. 10th St.
 88 Chester St.
 RFD No. 1
 99 Cornelio St.
 5125 Nill St.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Fridley, Charles M.
 Lehmkuhl, Elmer L.
 Regan, Bert P.

Box 315

SOUTH CAROLINA

Thrasher, Jack D.
 Thurber, Jack R.

108 Brooklyn Ave.
 202 Chicco Apts.

TENNESSEE

Cardin, Aubrey H.
 Crosslin, Howard S.
 Davis, Floyd E.
 Dixon, Ray D.
 Durard, Cecil
 Foster, Charles W.
 Henderson, Arthur E., Jr.
 Johnson, James E.
 Julian, Howard
 Lain, Charles E.
 Link, William C.
 Mosier, Alonzo J.
 Pentecost, Eugene
 Riggs, Albert C.
 Roberts, George R.
 Tatum, Franklin E.
 Wells, Jesse J.

RFD No. 4
 RFD No. 1
 RFD No. 2
 1823-16th Ave. N.
 RFD No. 2
 1010 W. Baxter St.
 220-34th Ave. N.
 RFD No. 1
 RFD
 238 Eastanalle Ave.
 511-2nd Ave.

306-8th Ave. S.
 RFD No. 1

TEXAS

Bagwell, Philip H.
 Boroughs, Herman
 Bronikowski, Max P.
 Brown, Hugie
 Campbell, Stanley L.
 Cleveland, Willard D.

3816 Idalia St.
 110 Richard St.
 1225 Aurora St.
 2338 Tenth St.
 5202 Vickery Blvd.
 RFD No. 1

Mercer
 Scranton
 Media
 Bainbridge
 Weedinlle
 Penn
 Drexel
 St. Mary's
 Altoona
 Red Hill
 Bloomsburg
 Plymouth
 Homestead
 Harrisburg
 Johnston
 Palmerton
 Pittston
 Philadelphia

Arteisan
 Argar
 Mitchell

Anderson
 Charleston

Madisonville
 Normandy
 Carthage
 Frankfort
 Nashville
 Rutledge
 Knoxville
 Nashville 9
 Baxter
 Joefstown
 Goodlettsville
 Athens
 Nashville
 Springs City
 Brushcreek
 Nashville 4
 Clinton

El Paso
 Corpus Christi
 Houston
 Port Arthur
 Dallas
 Rotan

HOME ADDRESSES

Dierolf, Arthur		Throckmorton
Evans, Sewell W.		Knox City
Feltz, Ferdinand P.	Box 378	Dumas
Frank, Jacob C.	Gen. Del.	Humble
Gilliam, Bob F.	Box 153	Freestone
Gonzalez, Guadalupe L.	Gen. Del.	Luling
Gray, L. T.	515 E. Magnolia	San Antonio
Herring, J. K.	RFD No. 2	Lubbock
Howland, Millard L.	Box 136	Bowie
Koehler, Rudolph A.	RFD No. 1, Box 45	Somerville
Krenak, Alfred J.	RFD No. 1	New Elm
Linn, Vernon L.	Box 1424	Gladewater
Macon, Earnest Q.		Crosbyton
Mathews, Clarence C.		Ralls
Melching, Walter C.	RFD No. 1	Grapeland
Mooneyham, Floyd J.	Box 747	Dumas
Mosby, William R.	505 Mills Bldg.	El Paso
Newhaus, Benjamin B.	3507 Inwood Dr.	Houston
Nichols, William A.	Box 119	Crosbyton
Noriega, Eduardo	813-2nd St.	El Paso
Northington, John V.	Box 275	Waco
Peel, Dueward		Warren
Rutherford, George W.	Box 159	Anna
Seiler, Lee R.		Meyersville
Scoggins, Harold R.	2517 Harrison Ave.	Dallas
Scott, Willie L.	Box 774	Hamlin
Skeen, Loyd T.		Blossom
Slaughter, Dale V.	Box 503	Menard
Smith, James A., Jr.	1021 DeQueen Blvd.	Port Arthur
Sterling, Walter R.	8319 Blackburn	Houston
Stevens, Albert F.	Box 694	Cross Plains
Stewart, Francis	2037 Norfolk	Houston
Taylor, Robert B.	RFD No. 3	Hamlin
Vercher, James L.	1113 Tinkey	Houston
Wilson, Elbert S.	7632 Ave. F	Houston
UTAH		
Grace, Murray E.	229 Cole St. Anchorage	Clear Field
Hemsley, Vertice R.	252-22nd St.	Ogden
VIRGINIA		
Baughner, Randolph L.	RFD No. 1	Elton
Lowe, Wallace W.	RFD No. 3, Box 168	Galax
Stovall, Eugene C.	RFD No. 2	Venton
Tudor, Elmer S.	Box 99	Bassett
Watt, George H.	2810 N. 10th St.	Arlington
WASHINGTON		
Carlson, Glenn L.	402 S. 57th St.	Tacoma
Furford, Leif O.		Bay Center
Huggins, Harold I.	4718-110th Ave. N. E.	Kirkland
	Apt. M	
Jenson, Marion C.	Box 91	Granger
Johanson, Albert V.		Winslow

APPENDIX

Koski, Raymond A.
Lee, Vernon A.
Stedman, John L.
Swanson, Ernest H.

4849-48th St. S.W.
329 Fairview Ave.
1510 Iowa St.
Box 58.

Seattle
Seattle
Bellingham
Parkland

WEST VIRGINIA

Bailey, Everett J.
Firl, Ira L.
Harley, Ralph A.
Jarrell, Carlis B.
Jordon, Jim W.
Kilgore, Howard P.
Smallwood, Clarence W.
Spencer, Raymond D.
Waters, Howard L.

RFD No. 1, Box 74

Chase & Court Sts.

2033-7th Ave.

628 West Virginia Ave.
E. Armstrong St.

Bluefield
Benbush
Huntington
Ameagle
Huntington
Ethel
Martinsburg
Keyser
Salem

WISCONSIN

Berg, Glen J.
Gilberts, Lawrence A.
Giloy, Herbert E.
Hansen, William J.
Callaly, Hubert M.
Paulson, Robert A.
Peterson, Clarence M.
Richard, Stephen
Stelse, Orville G.
Zirgibel, Frederick J.

1110 Camern St.
215-5th Ave.

169 S. 67th St.
1101-4th St.
1021 Baxter Ave.
4473 N. 30th St.
1447 W. Fond Du Lac Ave.
432 Mechanic St.
3114 W. Farimon Ave.

Eau Claire
Stanley
Humbird
Milwaukee
Beloit
Superior
Milwaukee 9
Milwaukee
Fort Atkinson
Milwaukee

